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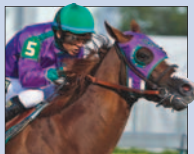
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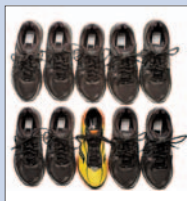
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Black Keys
hit 'Blue' note
on new album

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HEALTH & FITNESS



When it comes to
running, let comfort
be your guide

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VA chief 'mad as hell' over allegations

Senators grill Shinseki during hearing about health care complaints

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki urged patience from Capitol Hill lawmakers Thursday as his agency investigates reports of falsified wait times and staff cover-ups at agency hospitals and clinics across the country.

The secretary said he is "mad as

hell" about the allegations, but senators on the Veterans' Affairs Committee pointed to at least 50 prior federal reports on VA problems and pressed for immediate action to change agency practices and culture.

Shinseki's job appears under threat as the Department of Veterans Affairs is rocked by reports of wrongdoing surfacing in at least 10 states. In Arizona, allegations surfaced in late April that a

Phoenix VA hospital kept a secret list concealing long waits for health treatment while 40 veterans died.

Veterans' groups and members of Congress have called for Shinseki to resign, and the VA inspector general has launched a probe in Phoenix. That probe will not be completed until August.

SEE SHINSEKI ON PAGE 4



Shinseki

A member of a Cameroonian-Nigerian special operations team climbs aboard the USNS Spearhead during an exercise in the Gulf of Guinea.

STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

SEA CHANGE?

Gulf of Guinea states
seek outside help to
curb maritime crime

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USNS SPEARHEAD — Team members wore different uniforms, spoke separate languages and relied on hand signals to communicate.

Made up of forces from Cameroon and Nigeria — neighboring countries that have historically shared little beyond a border — the special operations team inched forward together through the tight passages of this Navy catamaran during a recent vessel boarding exercise in the Gulf of Guinea.

The drill, part of a larger Navy-hosted exercise held over several days in April, offered a glimpse of how local forces might work together to stop the kind of maritime crime that plagues this region.

It's one of several signs of change in the area, where nations that have struggled to police territorial waters are embracing new offers for help.

SEE CHANGE ON PAGE 6



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think I'm fully capable of doing the job, and I don't think it's rocket science by any means — not if you just listen to the people."

—17-year-old Saira Blair after beating an incumbent West Virginia delegate in Tuesday's election

See story on Page 11

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COMING SOON

Science
and Medicine

Looking for
truth about
mental illness
and violence



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MIDEAST

Second round of Afghan voting set for June 14

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

Afghanistan's top two presidential candidates are officially headed to a runoff scheduled for June 14 after neither secured the majority votes needed to avoid a second round.

On Thursday, election officials formally announced the official vote tally from the April 5 election. Mirroring preliminary numbers, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah gathered 45 percent while former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani received 31.6 percent of the votes.

Another former foreign minister, Zalmay Rassoul, was seen as a favorite of current President Hamid Karzai, but garnered only 11.4 percent. On Sunday, he announced that he was throwing his support to Abdullah.

The other five presidential candidates each drew support in the single digits in the first round of voting.

Abdullah welcomed a second round and said he was confident

that turnout would once again be high.

Election officials said the numbers released on Thursday took into account hundreds of fraud complaints, but the investigations did not significantly change the preliminary percentages.

At a news conference after the announcement, Ghani complained that more ballots should have been discarded because of fraud, but he said he would participate in the runoff and predicted that he would double his vote count from the first round.

The Electoral Complaints Commission, which was tasked with sorting through the complaints, invalidated roughly 400,000 votes. That is fewer than half of the more than 1 million votes that were thrown out during the 2009 election, in which Abdullah cited fraud and corruption when he quit rather than participate in a runoff against Karzai.

In total, more than 6.6 million Afghans voted in this election, 36 percent of whom were women, according to election officials.

The Independent Election Commission laid out the timetable for the constitutionally mandated runoff between Abdullah and Ghani. A second round of campaigning will be allowed between May 22 and June 11, with the vote scheduled for Saturday,



Ghani



Josh Smith/Stars and Stripes

Afghan presidential frontrunner Abdullah Abdullah speaks to reporters after casting his vote on April 5. Abdullah and runner-up Ashraf Ghani are headed to a runoff election scheduled for June 14.

June 14. The winner is expected to be announced in July.

The United Nations' representative in Afghanistan, Jan Kubiš, called on Afghan officials to do more to prevent fraud and urged candidates to respect the results, but he praised the process, which for the first time was exclusively overseen by Afghans.

"Afghans can justifiably be proud of their elections," he said in a statement. "On election day, Afghan men and women demonstrated their desire to live in peace, dignity and prosperity. Democratic choice prevailed over violence and coercion."

The runoff extends an election process whose conclusion many Afghans and international governments are impatiently awaiting so the country can move forward.

Karzai has refused to sign a bilateral security agreement with the United States that allows for thousands of troops to remain in

the country past the end of the year when all international combat forces are to be withdrawn. Both Abdullah and Ghani have said they would sign the deal, but the long electoral process means that U.S. military plans may be up in the air for months.

The second round of voting will also take place in the historically violent summer fighting season, when Taliban and other insurgent attacks typically increase. The Taliban launched their spring offensive on Monday, with attacks around the country that claimed the lives of at least 16 people.

Despite threats and a campaign of violence in the early months of this year, the Taliban were unable to deliver on promises to disrupt the election. Analysts fear that the insurgent group may redouble its efforts during a second round.

Naiemullah Sangen contributed to this report.
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Afghan, Pakistani border guards' skirmish leaves 1 dead

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A shootout between Afghan and Pakistani border guards killed one Afghan policeman Thursday in a remote southern region where the border between the two countries is poorly marked, officials said.

According to police spokes-

man Zia Durrani in the Afghan province of Kandahar, the skirmish started shortly after dawn and lasted about two hours. The two sides engaged in sporadic exchanges, using rifles and firing rockets across the border, he said.

Kandahar government spokesman Dawakhin Minapal said the fighting in the province's remote

Maroof district was sparked by an attempt by the Pakistani border police to construct an outpost on the Afghan side of the border. Pakistani official Asif Yusufzai said his country's paramilitary forces retaliated after the Afghan forces started shooting first. He said he didn't have any details on whether anyone was killed or wounded.

Pakistani forces have been constructing a checkpoint on their side of the border, and the Afghan forces have been raising objections against it, added Yusufzai, who is the top official in the southwestern district of Qila Saifullah along the border with Afghanistan.

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MIDEAST



Sgt. Robert Metcalf, with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, watches over the beach from an observation post as Marines work into the evening hours establishing a base camp along the shore.

PHOTOS BY HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes



Chief Petty Officer Daniel Chavez, a craft master, navigates his landing craft carrying Marines from the USS Gunston Hall to the beach in Djibouti, where a base camp is being established.

Related video

Watch the 22nd MEU at work at stars.com/go/beachlanding



By evening, the amphibious assault vehicles from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit push inland, where they encounter simulated enemy resistance.



Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit taking a break get unexpected visitors.

A world away from Normandy, troops practice modern-day beach landing

BY HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

DIJIBOUTI

The world may never see another amphibious landing like the ones that characterized the U.S. war effort in World War II.

Next month is the 70th anniversary of D-Day, when 5,000 ships and landing craft transported 176,000 Allied troops directly to the beaches of Normandy.

During that war, a series of other massive landings were conducted in North Africa, Italy and across the Pacific. In the Korean War, troops were also moved in that way.

Today, the U.S. Marines maintain

‘We would never again do a kind of a Tarawa landing where we are landing into the face of the enemy defenses.’

Brig. Gen. Gregg Olson
commander of Task Force 51/59

and exercise the capability to conduct “forced-entry operations,” but changes in technology have led to sweeping changes in tactics.

“We would never again do a kind of a Tarawa landing where we are landing into the face of the enemy defenses,” Brig. Gen. Gregg Olson, commander of

Task Force 51/59, said last month, referring to the three-day battle in the Gilbert Islands in 1943 in which more than 3,500 were killed or wounded.

Olson, who is in charge of the amphibious forces deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet, said in an interview during an exercise here in mid-April that an

amphibious landing today would likely involve using the inherent maneuverability of the U.S. military and essentially landing where the enemy is not.

“Move to the sound of the guns, but do so in a smarter way,” Olson said.

In this series of pictures on a beach in Djibouti, a location frequently used for Marine Corps exercises, members of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit come ashore from the dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall to practice a modern-day beach landing.

The exercise ran from April 15 through the end of the month.

simoes.hendrick@stars.com



Two amphibious assault vehicles with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit reach the shore, each carrying about 20 combat-loaded Marines.

MILITARY

Group, watchdog create VA whistleblower site

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki prepared Thursday morning for a Senate grilling over alleged abuse and fraud in his agency, a veterans' service organization and a government watchdog group announced a new website designed to give VA whistleblowers a safe place to vent.

The website, VAoversight.org, is a joint effort of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the Project On Government

Oversight, or POGO.

The site, which gives whistleblowers the option of providing contact information, features bold-face warnings to avoid using a government computer or phone to submit complaints. It also contains links to other online security tools to minimize detection.

"It takes a lot of courage to step forward and put one's career at risk," POGO Executive Director Danielle Brian said in a news release. "Whistleblowers shouldn't have to go it alone. We can help whistleblowers hold the VA ac-

countable, and keep the focus on solutions rather than attempts to hunt down those who voiced concerns."

The VA is facing a wave of reports about fraudulent record-keeping and scheduling practices designed to cover up long wait times for appointments. Delays in receiving care allegedly have caused the deaths of scores of veterans around the country.

"IAVA members are outraged, as new reports of mismanagement and cooking the books seem to arise daily," IAVA Chief Policy Officer Tom Tarantino said in a



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Phoenix VA Health Care Center in Phoenix is at the center of allegations of fraudulent record-keeping and scheduling practices.

news release. "Secretary Shinseki has finally started to emerge publicly and address these allegations, but short-term, reactive measures will not eradicate the more pervasive problems that are causing veterans to lose

faith in the system. VA has a long way to go to earn back the trust and confidence of the millions of veterans shaken by this growing controversy."

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Shinseki: VA chief says he intends to continue 'mission'

FROM FRONT PAGE

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama directed one of his top advisers to assist in a review of the VA service, which constitutes the largest integrated health care system in the United States and serves 6.5 million vets per year.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors will be temporarily assigned to the VA to work on a review focused on policies for patient safety rules and the scheduling of patient appointments, officials said Wednesday.

The Associated Press noted that the move is similar to the action the White House took last year when it assigned longtime Obama aide Jeffrey Zients to take over management of the troubled HealthCare.gov website from officials at the Health and Human Services Department. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius later resigned her post.

"If any of these allegations are true in Phoenix and elsewhere ... they are completely unacceptable to me, to veterans and the vast majority of VA employees who come to work every day to do their best for those veterans," Shinseki said. "It is important, however, to allow the inspector general to complete his duty."

He said the VA has fired or moved employees, including se-

nior officials, following the allegations and also will spend the next three weeks reviewing its health care system, which has some 1,700 points of entry, and will use those results to make improvements.

When asked why he should not resign, the former Army chief of staff and Vietnam veteran said he had come to the VA to improve the agency and to provide health care to those he had served with over a 35-year military career.

"I intend to continue this mission until I've satisfied that goal or I am told by the commander in chief that my time is served," he said.

Senators were dubious after years of reports on VA problems and the scheduling allegations that exploded in April.

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., said he was worked with nine directors of the VA during his political career and health care has been deteriorating under Shinseki's tenure.

"The quality of that service is diminishing, and that was not true until recently," Moran said. Senators told the VA leader they wanted action.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., made a special appearance at the hearing Wednesday and said it has been more than a month since the allegations and that the



CUFF OWEN/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki testifies Thursday on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing to examine the state of Veterans Affairs health care.

White House has failed to properly handle them.

He said immediate action should be taken to give veterans more flexibility in choosing where they get treatment and to avoid long waits at VA clinics.

"My fellow veterans can't wait many months that it may take to finish its report," he said.

The nation's largest veterans groups also testified, saying they were angered by the allegations that some were dying while waiting for care, and that better lead-

ership was needed.

Tom Tarantino, chief policy officer for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said long wait times are not new to the VA but would be solved if "good leaders have the information they need to fix it." Instead, the long delays in scheduling health care for veterans may have been hidden by VA employees who allegedly doctored hospital records, Tarantino said.

"This is indicative of a culture of failed oversight and account-

ability," he said.

Veterans expect action to correct the problems to be "taken in weeks, not months" and urged investigations of the scheduling and health care claims independent of the VA, Tarantino said.

"Veterans need to see the secretary step out in front of this issue and lead," he said. "We want a proactive secretary, not a reactive one."

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Missing Fort Bragg soldier's mother: Suspect led police to grave

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The mother of a Fort Bragg soldier who disappeared more than two years ago says police were led to her daughter's grave by the suspect now charged with her killing.

Johnna Henson, of St. Cloud, Fla., said Thursday that Fayetteville police called her Wednesday to say they were led to the remains of Pfc. Kelli Bordeaux, 23.

Nicholas Holbert, 27, is charged with kill-

ing Bordeaux. Police said he went to a Fayetteville bar with Bordeaux where she was last seen in April 2012. Holbert is scheduled for a first court appearance Thursday on charges of first-degree murder and first-degree kidnapping.

Henson said Holbert led investigators to Bordeaux's grave in a densely wooded area about 4 miles from the bar where her daughter and Holbert went for drinks and karaoke.

Detectives went Wednesday to an area

near the Interstate 295 corridor on the northern side of Fayetteville after receiving information, city police spokesman Lt. Todd Joyce said.

The remains will be sent to the chief medical examiner's office to confirm the identity.

Fayetteville Police Chief Harold Medlock said at a news conference that Holbert had been a person of interest in the case since Bordeaux disappeared.



Bordeaux



Holbert

MILITARY

Luring current force to 'reform' its own retirement

By TOM PHILPOTT

Current military members and retirees are to be "grandfathered" from any retirement changes that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recommends to Congress next February.

Current force members shouldn't let that dampen their interest in the work of the commission. The final recommendations, because any retirement reforms proposed almost certainly will include an "opt-in" feature.

Many currently serving members will get the chance to choose to switch to a more modern, less generous retirement plan. Who would do that?

If past behavior is a reliable guide, thousands will.

Economists use the term "personal discount rates." More simply, it's how the promise of cash-in-hand affects you versus larger future rewards.

It's pretty clear, though, that current members, if they choose, will be able to stay under the "High-3" retirement with its immediate annuities after 20 years of service set to equal 50 percent of average basic pay for their highest three earning years. Why?

The Joint Chiefs of Staff are insisting on it. The Obama administration has made retroactive retirement protection part of its guidance to the commission. The likelihood Congress will back those promises is slim given the lashes Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., the House and Senate budget committee chairpersons, felt when their budget deal last December included a cap on military retiree cost-of-living adjustments.

Before the ink dried on that deal, Congress voted to replace the COLA cap with alternative budget savings it still might regret: lengthening the impact of sequestration on future defense budgets by another year.

So, to borrow a phrase from recent popular culture: If you like your current plan, you can keep it. But you'll have something new to consider.

Department of Defense pay experts gave the commission two concepts for reforming retirement. They also advised that a lot more money would be saved for taxpayers if, in adopting either

of the ideas, the commission also endorses an "opt in" feature for those in service.

"Steady state" savings from any one of the new retirement concepts if adopted only for new entrants would range from \$1.7 billion to \$3.9 billion annually, officials told the commission.

"However, if currently serving members were permitted to participate... which DoD believes should be an option, savings to the Department and the Treasury would emerge more quickly." The greater the number of members "who opt-in, the faster the full savings of the change would be realized."

Current military retirement is a "defined benefit" that pays an immediate annuity after 20 or more years. The value of the annuity climbs by 2.5 percent of basic pay for each year served. However, only 15 percent of all members who serve stay long enough to qualify.

Both of the new concepts shown to the commission are "hybrid" plans, combining a reduced defined benefit with two new tools. One is a "defined contribution" feature, with the government making regular payments on a member's behalf into a Thrift Savings Plan, similar to a 401(k) account. The contributions would be invested and made portable for members to take with them even if they leave before 20 years. They would be fully vested in these accounts after six years of service.

A third element of the hybrid concept is supplemental pay to give the services greater flexibility to shape force structure and to retain select skills or pay grades. That pay could ease transition to civilian life for careerists no longer needed, or be made "continuation pays" to entice members to served years longer until the defined retirement benefit is within reach.

Being able to pocket benefits sooner can be a powerful inducement to forfeit more valuable benefits. As Defense officials advised the commission:

"Because service members on average value deferred benefits less than an actual cost to the government to provide these benefits, it is possible to generate savings and sustain retention by altering the mix of current and deferred benefits."

Lawyer: Treat Manning at military facility

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is trying to transfer convicted national security leaker Pvt. Chelsea Manning to a civilian prison where she can get treatment for a gender-identity condition. But her lawyer said Wednesday said that a move from a military prison would make Manning choose between the treatment and her safety.

Two Pentagon officials told The Associated Press earlier that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel gave the Army approval last month to try to work out a plan to transfer Manning from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to a federal prison. Manning entered the

Army as a man named Bradley.

The officials were not authorized to speak on the record and discussed the matter on condition of anonymity.

Manning has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, the sense of being a woman in a man's body. Civilian prisons can provide treatment, but the Defense Department does not, and a transfer would allow her to see if she wants to complete the transformation to being a woman.

Manning was convicted of sending classified documents to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. The soldier has asked for hormone therapy and to be able to live as a woman.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY UPDATE

Defense officials have seen that work with the \$30,000 Career Status Bonus offered for more than the last decade to careerists in their 15th year. In return for that extra cash, to pay off credit cards or buy a new car or put a down payment on a home, careerists are still opting back into "Redux" with its reduced annuities and smaller cost-of-living adjustments to retired pay.

Congress conceived the CSB for one purpose: to dampen the cost of repealing that cheaper retirement plan, which Congress had imposed

on any member entering service after July 31, 1986. When the Joint Chiefs complained about the impact on career retention from a cheaper retirement offering, Congress repealed Redux. But it also created the \$30,000 bonus to entice at least some careerists to opt back in.

Though CSB has been frozen at \$30,000 more than a decade, steadily losing purchasing power, it continues to induce about 3 percent of officers and 15 percent of enlisted into a cheaper retirement.

War-time tax breaks on deployment increased its attractiveness. As of 2012, more than 34,800 enlisted and 925 officers had retired under Redux rather than under the "High-3" plan. Because of that choice, the Defense Department, in setting aside funds to pay fu-

ture retirement benefits, needs to contribute about \$600 million less annually.

Defense officials and outside analysts who shaped the new retirement concepts would bristle at any comparison of their complex plans to the maligned CSB. Their hybrids, they say, address the unfairness of allowing most members to separate with no benefits toward retirement. The hybrids also give force managers greater flexibility to shape a cost-effective force.

But like the CSB, their plans also save a lot of money by moving retirement cash forward where many members will decide it has greater value than in the long run.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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MILITARY

Change: Oil, merchant traffic make Gulf of Guinea security a concern

FROM FRONT PAGE

Many of the nations are working with a U.N. agency to streamline chains of authority among their security forces. Others, such as Gabon, have sought help from the Navy in assessing their maritime forces. Countries along the most vulnerable stretch of coastline are receiving aid from a new European Union project aimed at protecting mariners.

Meanwhile, participation in the annual exercise, called Obangame Express and hosted by the Navy, has continued to rise, with countries such as Ivory Coast and Angola joining this year.

"New countries, countries who formerly didn't even have a platform to bring, are showing up with a ship," said Capt. Nancy Lacore, the exercise director.

There's a good reason behind the new sense of urgency. Maritime crime, long a scourge of the Gulf of Guinea, has escalated in the past year. Ships reported 46 armed robberies in these waters last year — a likely undercount, experts agree — with many of them violent. Attackers took oil, crewmembers' belongings and, more recently, crewmembers, themselves, selling them back to their companies for ransom.

Illegal fishing, meanwhile, is estimated to cost the region's economies \$350 million per year, while drug trafficking through territorial waters is worth as much as \$1.2 billion in illegal goods, according to the EU.

Concerns about disruptions to the high volume of oil and merchant traffic in the region make the region's security a concern for the U.S. and European countries, said Byron Smith, the Navy's director of Africa engagement for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa in Naples, Italy.

"Those are not only U.S., but global interests," Smith said. "You interrupt the oil flow, then you have an impact on pricing and on the global community. You impact the free flow of shipping and trade like what's happening on the east coast of Africa; it has an impact."

Though often compared, maritime crime on Africa's western coast differs significantly from the attacks near Somalia that made headlines several years ago. Most incidents in East Africa take place in international waters, making them true pirate attacks. West African attacks typically occur in territorial waters, mak-



PHOTOS BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

A member of Cameroon's maritime special operations command, the Battalion d'Intervention Rapide, clears a passenger area of the USNS Spearhead during a joint vessel boarding exercise with Nigerian forces in April in the Gulf of Guinea.

ing them armed robberies and the responsibility of individual states.

The number of governments on the crowded coast of West Africa discourages a single response or shared policy. Somalia's weak, western-backed government, by contrast, gives international forces a free hand to operate in its waters, resulting in a combined naval flotilla and free pursuit of pirates on land, which has contributed to plummeting numbers of attacks in recent years.

While commercial ships operate off Somalia with armed security teams, in the Gulf of Guinea, each country provides a security team in its waters. Exchanging security crews each time a ship crosses a maritime border is seen as a waste of time for many ships, said John Huggins, director of Oceans Beyond Piracy, a group that monitors piracy in Africa, and results in less trust between the teams and mariners.

"You kind of had a blank slate," Huggins said of Somalia. "On the west coast, you have all these little chunks of territorial waters, which makes everything really kind of difficult."

The response by the U.S. and the EU has been to "build capacity" — the term for improving a

country's security forces by training them, donating equipment and reforming their operations — and to encourage the region's states to work together.

The Navy began training in the region in 2007 through its Africa Partnership Station, an annual event in which trainers pull into various ports for exercises. The Pentagon purchased coastal radar equipment and speedboats for local forces in 2008. In 2010, the Navy began hosting the Obangame Express exercise, which focuses on boarding and maritime tracking and coordination.

Yet tactics are easily undermined by political decisions, as well as corruption or simple inaction. In Nigeria, for example, analysts often see connections between government officials and organized crime rings, especially those that target oil for theft.

And there is virtually no legal deterrent. According to Oceans Beyond Piracy, no suspect detained for robbery at sea has ever been prosecuted for it.

Many observers hope a code of conduct signed last June in Cameroon by leaders of 25 nations along the Atlantic Coast signals a new commitment. Nations agreed to share information and to create mechanisms for reporting suspicious vessels and incidents, and they pledged to create an anti-piracy coordination center in Cameroon.

Many are now working with the International Maritime Organization, a U.N. agency, on assessments of their capabilities and ideas for reforming their maritime forces. The organization will help implement parts of the agreement, develop standards across the region, provide education and seek international donors to cover expenses.

Other support is coming from the EU project, known as Critical Maritime Routes in the Gulf of Guinea, which will spend about \$6.3 million training coast guards

and developing information-sharing networks in a stretch of nations from Togo south to Gabon.

Gabon, meanwhile, is working

bilaterally with the U.S. for an assessment of its own forces and interagency structure. President Ali Bongo Ondimba made that request directly to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus during the latter's visit to Libreville in August.

Smith, the director of Africa engagement for the nearby Navy command, was recently in Libreville with Vice Adm. Philip S. Davidson, commander of the Navy's fleet for Europe and Africa, for a reception with Ondimba and to provide an update on the assessment, he said.

"At the end of the day, it needs to be a Gabonese product ... we're just trying to make sure we're all on the same page," Smith said.

Back on the Spearhead, the Nigerian-Cameroonian special operations team finished its boarding drill and moved on to the next phase of its exercise — storming a pirate base on a nearby beach. Whether such a team is a viable option for either country remains to be seen. For now, and the next few runs of Obangame Express, it may merely be a tool for training two forces at once. Change happens at its own pace in the Gulf, Huggins said.

"As in everything, it doesn't move as fast as you'd hope."

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A member of Cameroon's maritime special operations command, the Battalion d'Intervention Rapide, detains a U.S. Navy special operator role-playing as a suspected hijacker during a joint exercise.

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MILITARY

Ship-tracking radar helping police Gulf of Guinea waters

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY

Stars and Stripes

IDENAU, Cameroon — Kirsty McLean doesn't need to look out from the shore of this small fishing village to spot one of coastal Africa's lingering problems. She can just log on to her computer.

Using a Web-based mapping tool that plots nearby ships through their VHF (very high frequency) transponders, McLean recently layered another view on top, this one from a satellite searching for ship-size objects in the area. Dozens of new markers suddenly appeared on the screen — a full fleet of ships otherwise unnoticed in territorial waters.

"This is telling you you have a problem," she said.

Armed robbery, illegal fishing and drug trafficking are major issues plaguing Gulf of Guinea nations such as Cameroon. They are also concerns for the U.S. military, which has funded or financed new coastal radar sites in several countries.

Getting those nations to share that information is the job of McLean, a Navy civilian. Her online mapping tool, which is improving with the increasing availability of satellite imagery and expanded coastal radar, has become more attractive since a recent agreement by Gulf nations to share more of their data.

"You need to be able to see what's going on out there in order to respond to it," said Bryon Smith, director of Africa engagement for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, where McLean works.

Nine nations share waters along the Gulf's most active stretch, from Ivory Coast to Gabon, creating a patchwork of surveillance systems and a host of technical and political issues with sharing data. Many nations have gaps in their radar coverage.

The dishes also have their limitations as surveillance tools. They are good for line-of-sight detection 20 to 30 miles out — enough to cover territorial waters — but well shy of the 230-mile exclusive economic zone, a region where countries protect their own fish and resource stocks.

Until recently, the lack of a common radar picture left Gulf nations with few ways to develop that common picture when she spoke to a representative of the Volpe Center, a Department of Transportation initiative that creates transportation-related projects for federal agencies. The representative said he might have something in mind — the center had once worked on a similar concept for U.S. Southern Command.

Programmers pulled that project from the shelf, modified it and in 2010 released SeaVision, a Web-based vessel tracking system that

uses ships' transponders to draw a real-time picture of marine traffic on a common, unclassified interface. Based on Google Maps, the program takes data from the Automatic Identification System, the transponder signal system required of all flagged merchant vessels, and uses it to map ships in real time. Users can track vessels, look at their steaming histories and correspond with other SeaVision users to highlight particular vessels or pass along information.

The AIS data comes via participating countries, who agree to plug their receivers into the program. Satellite AIS receivers ensure vessels can be tracked farther from coastal radar.

The Naval command for Africa began disseminating SeaVision in 2011 through its exercises with African forces, and McLean encouraged countries to continue using the program in their regular surveillance.

"We didn't want to do something that they just used doing exercise because we wanted to build a capability that was consistent — it was there whether we were there or not," she said.

A year after the program's introduction, 20 countries were using SeaVision, McLean said. Administrators can track logs, allowing them to see which users appear comfortable with the program and which may need more training or might be having technical issues. The Navy still provides many of the accounts, she said.

AIS alone can't provide a complete picture of a nation's territorial waters or the exclusive economic zone. Merchant ships can turn the system off, and smaller boats may not even have it. McLean estimates well over half the vessels in the Gulf of Guinea are operating without AIS.

She believes new data feeds will help clear the picture.

The new European Union satellite program Sentinel-1 is expected to provide African nations free satellite images beginning later this year, she said. Although the satellite passes will be irregular — perhaps once every few days — the images will show how many ships are not using their transponders. Coastal radar, which some countries are feeding into the system, can provide similar information. As the U.S. military continues to update radar towers and add new ones, the information should become even better.

Countries should use the new data to enforce AIS requirements, and as a general indicator of where ships are clustering, McLean said.

"It's telling you about a problem," she said. "You cut tell the patterns of life. OK, well there was this many ships there last week. Is there this many ships there this week? What fish is in season?"

SeaVision should also receive a boost with last summer's Code of Conduct signed by West and Central African nations in Cameroon. The agreement, which followed a

period of escalating armed robberies in the Gulf, calls for better information sharing among signatories and a new regional information-sharing center in Cameroon.

Here in Idenau, forces from Cameroon and Nigeria recently tested the new agreement with combined exercises aimed at boarding a suspicious vessel. McLean was on hand as a combined maritime operations center first detected the vessel, played by a U.S. ship, tracked it and then guided a boarding team of combined Cameroon-Nigerian forces toward it.

Such skills can lead to real-world successes, McLean believes. She sees validation in a January interdiction off the coast of Senegal, when maritime officers there acted on a tip to board a Russian-flagged vessel believed to be fishing illegally.



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

A monitor inside a maritime operations center in Cameroon shows the interface for SeaVision, a Web-based maritime monitoring tool.

McLean said the Navy helped Senegalese forces by looking at the ship's history on SeaVision and tracking its movements. The country extracted a \$1.2 million fine from the owners of the ship, the Oleg Nadyonov, which was a repeat offender.

Further improvements to coastal surveillance across Africa, often called maritime domain awareness by the military, will remain a cornerstone of the Navy's work with African nations as long as maritime crime threatens global trade, oil prices and inland sta-

bility, said Smith, the official with U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. SeaVision is an improving tool, he said — and a reality check on the seriousness of the situation.

He recalled one government minister's reaction when shown a satellite feed on SeaVision.

"We turned this thing on and he's like, 'Well, what are all those ships out there, because we don't see them out here?'"

The response: "That's a good question."

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MILITARY



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Pond Security Service, which provides security at U.S. Army installations in Germany, has posted help-wanted signs in nearly all of its vehicles as it struggles to hire personnel amid uncertainty over its contract with the Army. The company is in negotiations for a six-month bridge contract.

Soldiers may take over for civilian guards in Germany

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Soldiers may take over security at Army posts in Germany if a contract to keep civilians at the gates isn't signed in the next two weeks.

The Army's contract with Pond Security, which has guarded Army installations in Germany for years, is set to run out May 28, and another firm's bid to take over the job was thrown out in March after protests from rival companies.

The Army is in negotiations with Pond for a six-month bridge contract that would begin May 29 and would give the service time to work out a long-term deal for civilian security guards at its posts in Germany. If the bridge contract isn't signed in time, U.S. Army Europe is preparing to replace Pond guards with soldiers on May 29 as a stopgap measure.

USAREUR has begun training soldiers for the job, though the command won't say how many soldiers it's training or what units they're from.

"As a rule, we do not discuss specific force-protection measures, and it would not be appropriate to discuss how many soldiers would be used, which units would be used, or how long guard shifts would be," USAREUR spokesman Bruce Anderson said Thursday in an emailed statement.

Pond employs some 1,800 guards at Army installations in Germany. Roughly 29,000 soldiers are assigned to USAREUR. While most of those are in Germany, the command would have to mobilize more than 6 percent

of its soldiers in the country to match what Pond has at the gates.

Anderson said it is reasonable to expect some effect on productivity while soldiers are performing security duties, but that leaders would take steps to "mitigate that effect where possible."

Even if the contract goes through, the Army may still need to provide soldiers to supplement the civilian guard force, according to Pond.

The Army's contract with Pond Security is set to run out May 28

The company lost about 6 percent of its workforce between January and April amid uncertainty over a long-term contract, Chad Geier, the company's chief of staff

wrote in an emailed statement. The number of personnel calling in sick has also gone up, he said.

Pond is trying hard to recruit new guards "to stabilize and balance the damages we suffered," Geier said.

A memo updating Pond employees on the bridge contract last week said the losses and sick calls "could result in soldiers working with us at the gates."

According to the memo, Pond and the Army already have negotiated a deal that would keep Pond on the job through at least Nov. 30. Two one-month options could extend their stay through the end of January.

That contract is not yet finalized, however. According to a spokeswoman for the 409th Con-

tracting Support Brigade, they are still negotiating with Pond.

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AF to speed cuts to headquarters staff

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force intends to cut its headquarters staff on a much more aggressive time line than that required by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, according to Air Force officials.

Last summer, Hagel ordered all of the services to reduce their headquarters staff by 20 percent by 2019. Hagel's directive was part of a larger Pentagon effort to save money at a time of budget austerity.

"You're going to see the Air Force do a bit better than 20 percent, a little bit more than 20 percent, and we're going to try to do it in one year, not five years," Deborah Lee James told an editorial board meeting at Gannett Government Media Corp., according to a report by Federal Times, a Gannett publication.

Capt. Erika Yepsen, an Air Force spokeswoman, confirmed the ambitious plans.

"We have five years to do it. But if we can frontload the cuts, then we will be able to reap the benefits of the savings across the five years," she told Stars and Stripes. "That's been our plan all along is to try to achieve the cuts as fast as possible so that we can get the maximum benefit of the savings ... Like everything in our budget,

the sooner you cut it out, the savings sort of multiply over time because then you don't need to keep spending that money [every year]."

James said the shrinking of the headquarters staff will affect active-duty airmen, Air Force civilians and contractor personnel, and the bulk of those cuts will occur in fiscal 2015, according to Federal Times.

To trim the headquarters, James told the editorial board that the service will look to make consolidations among major policy command staffs that manage base support services, such as security, chaplain services, civil engineering and personnel, but the details are still being worked out.

"By next summer, we are looking to be done with this ... because we'll basically be shaped at about the right size," she said, according to Federal Times.

In addition to the headquarters staff cuts, the Air Force intends to slash its overall force structure so the service can spend more money on new weapon systems and personnel readiness.

James has said the Air Force wants to use voluntary retirement measures to reduce the force, and will use involuntary measures only if necessary.

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PACIFIC

Abe pushes for Japan to aid allies in combat

By **ERIK SLAVIN**
AND **HANA KUSUMOTO**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan must reinterpret its pacifist constitution to safeguard its citizens and preserve regional peace, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told the nation during a televised news conference Thursday night.

Abe said he wants to end the ban on engaging in collective self-defense, following recommendations made in a government committee report released earlier in the day.

Reinterpreting the constitution would allow, for example, a Japanese ship to defend a U.S. Navy ship under attack in international waters, something government officials say is illegal under the current interpretation.

Even if the U.S. ship were carrying evacuated Japanese citizens, the Japan Self-Defense Forces could take no action under the current legal interpretation, Abe said.

"I and the government have the responsibility to protect the lives of [Japanese people]," Abe said. "Is it OK for us to not be able to do anything?"

Ending the ban also would allow Japan to shoot down a missile

fired over the country and toward the United States by North Korea, and would allow Japan to rescue its aid workers abroad, according to the report recommendation.

According to Abe, the reinterpretation can be achieved through Cabinet approval rather than an amendment to the constitution, which would require two-thirds support of parliament and a public referendum.

Those opposed to the move cite Abe's attempt to subvert the Japanese law, as well as the lack of a clear threat requiring the change. Opponents also view the measure as opening the door to a full-fledged military in the future.

"There are misconceptions that Japan will become a country that will fight wars, but there is no way," Abe said. "The course of our country, which has been taken as a pacifist nation, will not change in the future."

So far, Abe has faced resistance, though quantifying the opposition has proven difficult.

The Asahi Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper that opposes Abe's measure in its editorial pages, found that only 29 percent answered yes when asked whether Japan should lift the ban on collective self-defense.

The rival Yomiuri Shimbun,

which is viewed as more conservative, found nearly the opposite with slightly different wording. Sixty-three percent said they

supported defending an ally, assuming it was "authorized with the minimum force necessary." Another 8 percent favored the measure unconditionally.

Abe also must convince skeptical leaders of New Komeito, the minority partner in his government, that the proposed changes won't lead Japan on an unnecessary path to war.

Opponents to Abe's plans aren't necessarily hostile to the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

Kyoji Yanagisawa, chief director of International Geopolitics Institute, a private think tank, said he doesn't oppose U.S.-Japan cooperation, but believes that intelligence-sharing and logistics requests are sufficient.

Yanagisawa added that ending the collective self-defense ban



Abe

could put Japan into a position in which it must choose between its own interests and rejecting a U.S. request for aid.

Such a request "could shatter the U.S. alliance," Yanagisawa said.

Officials favoring collective self-defense say that is unlikely. Japan and the U.S. have disagreed in recent decades without disastrous consequences, though not on matters of direct combat.

Meanwhile, Abe's supporters contend that North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons, coupled with China's increasingly assertive use of force in Asia-Pacific-region waters, show an alignment of interests.

"A challenge against the status quo by force is something we have to avoid," Shinichi Kitaoka, deputy chairman of the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security, told Stars and Stripes in April. "We cannot be indifferent in the situation in the South China Sea. Therefore, we must strengthen our cooperation."

If the ban on collective self-defense ends, its exercise will come with conditions.

The panel's recommendations include that a request for aid come from a close ally under at-

tack, and that the attack would represent a grave threat to Japan's security.

The prime minister and the national security council then would request the use of force and would gain Diet approval.

Japan would "use force to the minimum extent necessary," according to the report.

In emergency situations, the panel recommended giving the council power to take action and to gain Diet approval afterward, a measure that could draw some opposition.

Japan also would be required to gain approval from any other nation where forces must transit on the way to a conflict, according to the recommendations.

Abe will try to gain approval by the end of the Diet session June 22, though some officials have stated that it may take longer. If approved in June, it likely would take until at least the end of this year to amend the self-defense law and others, which are legal precursors to collective self-defense.

Japan's constitution has never been amended in its 67 years of existence.

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NATION

9/11 museum dedicated at ground zero

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama praised the new Sept. 11 museum on Thursday as “a sacred place of healing and of hope” that captures both the story and the spirit of heroism and helpfulness that followed the attacks.

“It’s an honor to join in your memories, to recall and to reflect, but above all to reaffirm the true spirit of 9/11 — love, compassion, sacrifice — and to enshrine it forever in the heart of our nation,” he told an audience of victims’ relatives, survivors, rescuers and recovery workers at the ground zero museum’s dedication ceremony.

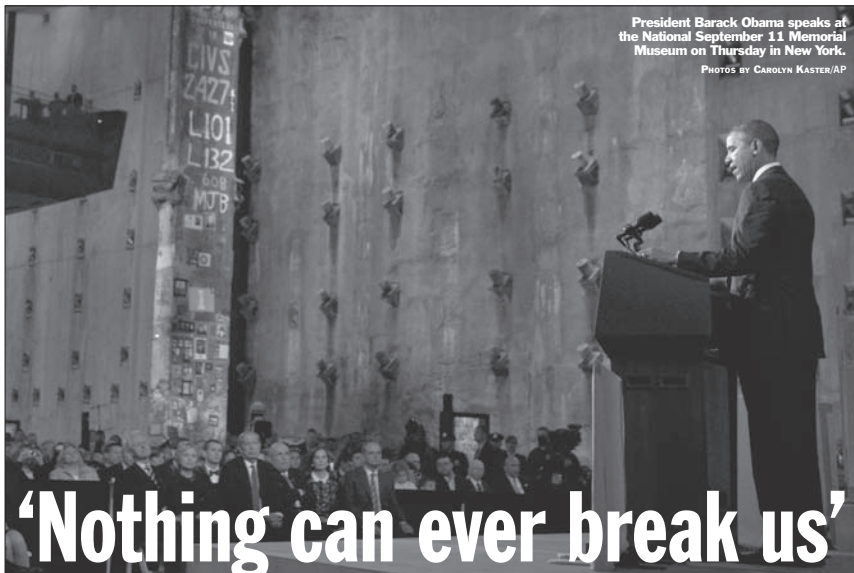
“Like the great wall and bedrock that embrace us today, nothing can ever break us. Nothing can change who we are as Americans.”

After viewing some of the exhibits, including a mangled fire truck and a memorial wall with photos of victims, the president touched on some of the many stories of courage amid the chaos: the passengers who stormed a hijacked plane’s cockpit over a Pennsylvania field and first responders who rushed into the burning twin towers. He also honored military members “who have served with honor in more than a decade of war.”

He focused especially on the story of Welles Crowther, a 24-year-old World Trade Center worker and former volunteer firefighter who became known as “the man in the red bandanna” after he led other workers to safety from the trade center’s stricken south tower. He died in the tower’s collapse.

One of the red bandannas he made a habit of carrying is in the museum, and Crowther’s mother, Alison, told the audience she hoped it would remind visitors “how people helped each other that day, and that they will be inspired to do the same in ways both big and small. This is the true legacy of Sept. 11.”

By her side was Ling Young, one of the people Welles Crowther



President Barack Obama speaks at the National September 11 Memorial Museum on Thursday in New York.

PHOTOS BY CAROLYN KASTER/AP

‘Nothing can ever break us’



President Barack Obama and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg tour the destroyed Ladder 3 truck.



A twisted piece of steel from the World Trade Center sits in Foundation Hall before the dedication ceremony at the museum.



President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, Michael Bloomberg, Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton tour the Memorial Hall.

rescued.

“It was very hard for me to come here today,” but she wanted to thank his parents, she said.

Before the ceremony, Obama walked quietly through an expansive hall with former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. First lady Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton following behind them.

The museum, which commemorates the 2001 terrorist attack, as well as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, opens to the public on May 21.

Reflections from dignitaries — including New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, current New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani — were interspersed with the voices of everyday people caught up in Sept. 11.

Retired Fire Department Lt. Mickey Cross described being trapped for hours in the wreckage of the north tower — and then joining the recovery effort after being rescued. “There was a real sense of caring for each other,” he said.

Ada Dolch, a school principal

whose sister died at the trade center, recalled turning her grief into inspiration to open a school in Afghanistan. “What a kick in the head to Osama bin Laden!” she said.

Kayla Bergeron remembered walking down 68 flights of stairs in the north tower, amid confusion and fear that there was no way out.

Her final steps to safety were on an outdoor stairway, now in the museum as the “survivors’ stairs.”

“Today, when I think about those stairs, what they represent to me is resiliency,” she said.

By turns chilling and heart-breaking, the ground zero museum leads people on an unsettling journey through the terrorist attacks, with forays into their lead up and legacy.

There are scenes of horror, including videos of the skyscrapers collapsing and people falling from them. But there also are symbols of heroism, ranging from damaged fire trucks to the wristwatch of one of the airline passengers who confronted the hijackers.

The museum and memorial plaza above, which opened in 2011, were built for \$700 million in donations and tax dollars.

Climate warnings ignored with US elections looming

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Congress, ignoring dire new warnings about climate change, continues to shy away from legislation that might mitigate the effects of global warming, leaving President Barack Obama with limited tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are partly responsible for melting glaciers and rising sea levels.

The United States is the second-largest producer of carbon dioxide, the heat-trapping gas that is a byproduct of burning

coal, oil and natural gas. China is in first place. Curbing those emissions and switching to energy sources such as wind and solar will be expensive and harm the economy in some U.S. states, especially those that depend heavily on coal mining and oil extraction.

Given that reality and upcoming congressional elections in November, lawmakers — including some Democrats — are more reluctant than ever to tackle legislation that would put limits on emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases.

Republicans have a good chance at taking the majority in the Senate, and Democrats are fighting most of their toughest races this year in conservative-leaning states that rely heavily on the energy industry, including Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, West Virginia, Alaska and Montana.

Conservative groups already have spent millions of dollars accusing Democrats in those states of supporting energy policies that would impede local jobs and economic development.

Next month, the Obama administration is set to release new regulations on emis-

sions from coal-burning power plants. Opponents of the move claim the president and Democrats have declared war on coal.

But it is not just politics. Many Republicans say they do not believe the science that shows man-made climate change as a major threat to civilization.

“I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it,” Sen. Marco Rubio said over the weekend. He is a likely candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

NATION

Mo. passes law on 3-day wait period on abortions

By JORDAN SHAPIRO
The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri's Republican-controlled Legislature gave final approval Wednesday to legislation requiring a woman to wait three days after first seeing a doctor before having an abortion. Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon has not said whether he will sign or veto it.

The measure would triple Missouri's current 24-hour waiting period and put the state in line with Utah and South Dakota as the only states to mandate a 72-hour time frame. Missouri currently has only one clinic performing elective abortions.

The House voted 111-39 in favor of the measure Wednesday, sending it to Nixon, who has previously allowed other abortion restrictions to become law without his signature. That included a measure last year that requires doctors to be in the room for the initial dose of a drug used in medical abortions.

Nixon said Tuesday that he would review the extended waiting period and act in a manner consistent with his other actions on abortion legislation.

'Life is precious. I want to make sure the unborn child has a chance to survive.'

Sen. David Sater
a Republican pharmacist

Senators passed the waiting period measure earlier this week after Democrats agreed to stop filibustering the bill in exchange for Republicans dropping other measures the Democrats

opposed, related to union fees and photo identification requirements for elections.

Under both current law and the new legislation, Missouri's abortion waiting period doesn't apply in instances deemed by a doctor to be a medical emergency. But women do have to wait in cases of rape and incest.

Supporters argue that women need more time to digest information received by a doctor. In addition to the waiting period, Missouri's current abortion law requires doctors to provide women with a variety of written information about the procedure, and they must be given the opportunity to hear the fetus' heartbeat on an ultrasound.

"Life is precious. I want to make sure the unborn child has a chance to survive," Sen. David Sater, a Republican pharmacist from rural southwest Missouri, said during debate on the legislation he sponsored.

Opponents said the longer waiting period would push women further into pregnancy before an abortion, which can increase risk.



HAYNE PALMOUR IV, U-T SAN DIEGO/AP

Inmates from Oak Glen Fire Camp in Riverside retreat to higher ground as the flames start to move close while they work to control the fire near Oriole Court in Carlsbad, Calif., on Wednesday.

Crews making gains on worst of San Diego fires

By ELLIOTT SPAGAT
AND JULIE WATSON
The Associated Press

SAN MARCOS, Calif. — Firefighters gained ground overnight on a string of major San Diego area wildfires — except for one in the city of San Marcos where the 700-acre blaze burned out of control Thursday as another scorching day dawned.

Nine fires in all were burning an area of more than 14 square miles amid a heat wave and dry conditions, said San Diego County officials, who warned also of poor air quality with black and gray smoke wafting over the region. The wildfires drove tens of thousands from their homes and shut down schools and amusement parks, including Legoland.

Firefighters contended with temperatures approaching 100 degrees and gusty winds as they tried to contain flames fueled by brush and trees left brittle by drought.

Officials said a Carlsbad area blaze was 60 percent contained and had burned 400 acres. The wildfire destroyed an 18-unit condominium complex and four residences, Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall said.

Some evacuation orders were being lifted in Carlsbad but a



A Carlsbad, Calif., police officer turns traffic away as flames leap behind him on Wednesday.

major power outage and hotspots were still a concern.

Efforts were focusing on San Marcos, a university city where hundreds of new evacuation orders were issued on Thursday. More than 20,000 evacuation notices were sent to residents Wednesday and a California State University campus with nearly 10,000 students in the middle of final exams was shut down at least through Thursday. San Diego County officials said that the blaze had destroyed three homes.

The blaze in the coastal city of Carlsbad, about 30 miles north of

San Diego, was the most destructive of the fires so far.

Other areas in the county also flared up, though most calmed quickly, including two fires in the far north of the county near Camp Pendleton that together burned nearly 11 square miles and prompted evacuations that lasted just a few hours.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for San Diego County, which would free up special resources and funding for the firefight, and state fire officials were creating a central command center for the blazes.

W.Va. teen beats state delegate in GOP primary

By REID WILSON
The Washington Post

Saira Blair will graduate from a West Virginia high school later this month. She posts photos of her smoothie habit on Instagram, volunteers at the Martinsburg veterans hospital and helps raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

She will not be eligible to vote until July.

But on Tuesday, she beat a sitting state delegate who was seeking a third term in office.

With all 13 precincts in her Martinsburg area district reporting, Blair beat state Del. Larry Kump, a Republican, with 872 votes to his 728.

Blair campaigned on an anti-abortion, pro-Second Amendment platform, offering her cellphone number to constituents and pledging not to be negative. She spent about \$4,800 on her campaign, state finance records show. (Kump, a former lobbyist, only spent \$1,800 on his re-election bid.)

"I think I'm fully capable of doing the job, and I don't think it's rocket science by any means — not if you just listen to the people," Blair told the Martinsburg Herald-Mail this week.

She's no stranger to politics, either: Blair's father, Craig, is a West Virginia state senator. And despite being ineligible to vote for herself in the primary, she will be 18 in two months, meaning she'll be old enough to vote in November, and to serve when the legislature reconvenes next year.

Blair will face Democratic nominee Layne Diehl in November, and she's the favorite: In the 2012 presidential election, Republican Mitt Romney took nearly two-thirds of the vote in her district, according to a breakdown by the liberal blog DailyKos.

No new gay marriage licenses in Ark., for now

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Gay couples in Arkansas will not be able to get wedding licenses, even though the state Supreme Court upheld a ruling that struck down the ban on same-sex marriage, because a separate law that prevents clerks issuing the licenses to same-sex couples is still on the books.

An unsigned order, the justices refused to put the ruling by Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza on hold. Even though they rejected the state's request to suspend the ruling, their order will still prevent any other same-sex couples from getting marriage licenses in Arkansas, at least for now.

From The Associated Press



Blair

NATION

Segregation in schools making comeback 60 years after Brown

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
AND KIMBERLY HEFLING
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Segregation is making a comeback in U.S. schools.

Progress toward integrated classrooms largely has been rolled back since the Supreme Court issued its landmark Brown v. Topeka Board of Education decision 60 years ago, according to a report released Thursday by the Civil Rights Project at UCLA. Blacks are now seeing more school segregation than they have in decades, and more than half of Latino students are now attending schools that are majority Latino.

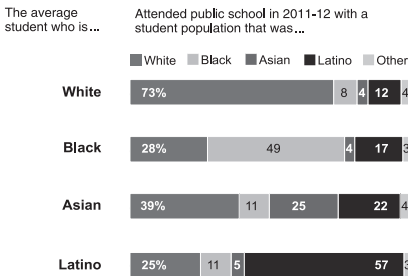
In New York, California and Texas, more than half of Latino students are enrolled in schools that are 90 percent minority or more, the report found. In New York, Illinois, Maryland and Michigan, more than half of black students attend schools where 90 percent or more are minority.

Project co-director Gary Orfield, author of the "Brown at 60" report, said the changes are troubling because they show some minority students receive poorer educations than white students and Asian students, who tend to be in middle-class schools. The report urged, among other things, deeper research into housing segregation, which is a "fundamental cause of separate-and-unequal schooling."

Although segregation is more prevalent in central cities of the largest metropolitan areas, it's also in the suburbs. "Neighborhood schools, when we go back

Students, schools and race

Sixty years after U.S. courts ordered schools desegregated, nonwhite students are still more likely to attend public schools with predominantly minority student bodies.



NOTE: Numbers are rounded. "Other" includes Native American and multiracial students.

SOURCES: UCLA analysis of Education Department data

AP

to them, as we have, produce middle-class schools for whites and Asians and segregated, high-poverty schools for blacks and Latinos," Orfield said.

Housing discrimination — stopping or discouraging minorities from moving to majority-white areas — also plays a role in school segregation and "that's been a harder nut to crack," said Sherri-lyn Infill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which argued the Brown case in front of the Supreme Court.

School performance can be entwined with poverty, too.

"These are the schools that tend to have fewer resources, tend to have teachers with less experience, tend to have people who are teaching outside their area of specialty, and it also denies the opportunities, the contacts and the networking that occur when you're with people from different socioeconomic backgrounds," said Dennis Parker, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Racial Justice Program.

Seattle aims to lead US to minimum wage of \$15

By MANUEL VALDES
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — They've crowded into stuffy rallies at a Seattle union hall, protested in front of fast-food restaurants, marched down city streets and implored city leaders to demand an immediate \$15-an-hour minimum wage increase for all employees.

"We're not patient!" a man shouted at a union hall rally, and the crowd cheered.

While the Seattle mayor is proposing to raise the wage to \$15 in the coming years — the highest level in the nation — some activists say that's too slow and are threatening to take the issue to voters with a ballot measure that would force a raise sooner.

Accounting for inflation, "even in 10 years' time, workers still won't be at \$15," said Kshama Sawant, the socialist City Council



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant, right, waits as Stephanie Sucasaca interprets Sawant's remarks into Spanish at a rally May 1 in Seattle.

member and a leader of the group 15 Now.

As the plan is being debated by the council, businesses are sounding the alarm that raising the wage too quickly could hurt their revenue and force them to either hire fewer workers or let go more of their employees.

Popular restaurateurs have emphatically argued for counting tips in total compensation.

Minority chambers of commerce have banded together to argue that a quick increase to \$15 would kill their family-run

businesses. Who is going to hire immigrants learning English for \$15 per hour? they ask.

OneSeattle, a group made up of small and medium-size employers with the backing of large business organizations like the Washington Restaurant Association, says they support a wage increase, but with some key caveats.

They want a phase-in and a temporary training wage. They also want health care, commissions, tips and bonuses to be counted in total wages.

Common Core math stirs ire among parents

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

An Iowa woman jokingly calls it "Satan's handiwork." A California mom says she's broken down in tears. A Pennsylvania parent says it "makes my blood boil."

What could be so horrible? Grade-school math.

As schools around the U.S. implement national Common Core learning standards, parents trying to help their kids with math homework say that adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing have become as complicated as calculus.

They're stumped by unfamiliar terms like "rectangular array" and "area model." They wrestle with division that requires the use of squares, slashes and dots. They rage over impenetrable word problems.

Stacey Jacobson-Francis, 41, of Berkeley, Calif., said her daughter's homework requires her to know four different ways to add.

"That is way too much to ask of a first-grader," she said. "She can't remember them all, and I don't know them all, so we just do the best that we can."

Simple arithmetic isn't so simple anymore, leading to plenty of angst at home.

Even celebrities aren't immune: The comedian Louis C.K. took to Twitter recently to vent about his kids' convoluted homework, writing that his daughters went from loving math to crying about it.

Adopted by 44 states, the Common Core is a set of English and math standards that spell out what students should know and when. The standards for elementary math emphasize that kids should not only be able to solve arithmetic problems using the tried-and-true methods their parents learned, but understand how numbers relate to each other.

"Part of what we are trying to figure children is to become problem solvers and thinkers," said Diane Briars, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. "We want students to understand what they're doing, not just get the right answer."

That's a radically different approach than many parents are accustomed to.

Jennie Barnds, 40, of Davenport, Iowa, was puzzled by her fourth-grade daughter's long-dividend homework, a foreign amalgam of boxes, slashes and dots with nary a quotient or dividend in sight.

"If we are sitting there for 20 minutes trying to do a simple

Unfamiliar terms in math homework

Under Common Core, parents are likely to see some unfamiliar terms on their children's elementary-school math homework. Here are some examples drawn from New York state's math curriculum:

■ Grade 2 addition. Solve using your place value chart and number disks, composing a 10 when necessary: 53+19

■ Grade 2 subtraction. Craig checked out 28 books at the library. He read and returned some books. He still has 19 books checked out. How many books did Craig return? Draw a tape diagram or number bond to solve.

■ Grade 4 multiplication. Represent the following expressions with disks, regrouping as necessary, writing a matching expression, and recording the partial products vertically: 3x24.

■ Grade 4 word problem.

Cindy says she found a shortcut for doing multiplication problems. When she multiplies 3x24, she says, "3x4 is 12 ones, or 1 ten and 2 ones. Then there's just 2 tens left in 24, so add it up and you get 3 tens and 2 ones." Do you think Cindy's shortcut works? Explain your thinking in words and justify your response using a model or partial products.

From The Associated Press

problem, how is an 8-, 9-, 10-year-old supposed to figure it out?" she said.

"It's incredibly frustrating for the student and the parent."

Whether Common Core itself is responsible for the homework headaches is a contentious issue.

Some experts say Common Core promotes reform math, a teaching method that gained currency in the 1990s. Derided as "fuzzy" math by critics, reform math says kids should explore and understand concepts like place value before they become fluent in the standard way of doing arithmetic.

Critics say it fails to stress basic computational skills, leaving students unprepared for higher math.

WORLD



Dapo Photos/AP

A person identified by Turkish media as Yusuf Yerkel, an adviser to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, kicks a protester held by special forces police members during Erdogan's visit to Soma, Turkey, on Wednesday after a mining accident.

Turkey mine blast toll rises

The Associated Press

SOMA, Turkey — Women sang improvised ballads about the departed over freshly dug graves Thursday, even as backhoes carved row upon row of graves into the dirt and hearses lined up outside the cemetery with more victims of Turkey's mining disaster.

Rescue teams recovered another eight victims, raising the death toll to 282, with some 142 people still unaccounted for, according to government figures. The disaster Tuesday has set off protests around Turkey and thrown Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's presidential ambitions off stride. Blackening his reputation further, one of Erdogan's aides was accused of kicking a protester.

At a graveyard in the western town of Soma, where coal mining

has been the main industry for decades, women wailed loudly in an improvised display of mourning. They swayed and sang songs about their relatives as the bodies were taken from coffins and lowered into their graves. Pictures of the lost relatives were pinned onto their clothing.

"The love of my life is gone," some sang, chanting the names of dead miners.

No miner has been brought out alive since dawn Wednesday from the Soma coal mine where the explosion and fire took place. Many mourners said they spent their whole lives fearing something like this.

"The wives of the miners kiss their husbands in the morning," said Gulizir Donmez, 45, the daughter and wife of a miner and neighbor of one of the victims.

"When they come back, even if they are five minutes late, everyone starts calling. You never know what is going to happen."

Energy Minister Taner Yildiz on Thursday announced that a fire inside the mine was dying down, offering hope that rescuers would soon be able to speed up their search for those missing.

Erdogan was not welcome during his visit to the area Wednesday. He was forced to take refuge at a supermarket after angry crowds called him a murderer and a thief, in a reference to alleged corruption, and clashed with police.

Turkish newspapers on Thursday printed photographs they said were of an Erdogan aide kicking a protester who was on the ground and being held by special forces police. The papers identified the aide as Yusuf Yerkel.

2 insurgent bases are destroyed by Ukrainian army

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian army destroyed two military bases of pro-Russia insurgents in overnight operations, the country's acting president said Thursday, as the government returned to the offensive a day after the start of European-brokered talks which have yet to draw in the warring sides.

Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov told lawmakers that government forces attacked an insurgent base in the city of Slovyansk and another one in nearby Kramatorsk, about 95 miles west of the Russian border.

Ukraine's defense ministry said there were no casualties, while the army took three insurgents captive, including one who was armed with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

Associated Press journalists in Slovyansk heard bursts of automatic gunfire overnight, but details of Turchynov's statement couldn't be independently confirmed. The situation was quiet during the day Thursday, and there has been no comment from the insurgents to the claims made by Turchynov.

Turchynov didn't describe the insurgents' bases or give any further details. Both government troops and insurgents have checkpoints around Slovyansk and Kramatorsk.

Some previous Ukrainian claims of successful operations have proved to be exaggerated.

Insurgents, who have seized government buildings across eastern Ukraine and fought the Ukrainian military, declared two eastern regions independent following Sunday's referendum, which was dismissed as a sham by the Ukrainian government

and the West.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a trans-Atlantic security group, put forward a "road map" calling for national dialogue as a first step toward resolving the escalating tensions. The first round of talks in Kiev produced no visible result as the government has confirmed its refusal to sit down with representatives of the insurgents.

In the east of Ukraine, insurgents said they hadn't been invited to the Kiev round table and said that talks should be held in Donetsk. One of the leaders of the insurgency, Denis Pushilin, said it should focus on prisoners exchange and the pullout of the government forces, whom he called "occupation troops."

The next session of the talks is expected on Saturday, but the government hasn't made any specific commitments.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich, what he called a "stubborn reluctance of the authorities in Kiev to launch a real process of national reconciliation."

Meanwhile, Russia has ratcheted up pressure on Ukraine, with President Vladimir Putin saying in a letter released Thursday that it will deliver gas to its struggling neighbor next month only if it pays in advance.

Putin first warned of the move in April in a letter to European leaders whose nations are customers of Russian state-controlled Gazprom natural gas giant. He said that Moscow would switch to pre-paid deliveries if Ukraine, which serves as a major conduit for Russian gas supplies to Europe, failed to start settling its mounting gas debt.

Chinese workers attacked

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — A 1,000-strong mob stormed a Taiwanese steel mill in Vietnam and hunted down Chinese workers, killing one, attacking scores more and then setting the complex alight, Taiwanese and Vietnamese authorities said Thursday, further inflaming tensions between Hanoi and Beijing as they square off against each other in the disputed South China Sea.

It was the first deadly incident in a wave of anti-China protests triggered by Beijing's deployment of an oil rig in the long-disputed seas on May 1. Vietnam is angrily demanding that China remove the rig and has sent ships to confront it and a flotilla of escort ships.

Taiwanese companies, many

of which employ Chinese nationals, have borne the brunt of the protests and violence, which is posing a challenge to the authoritarian government, which prides itself on maintaining peace and security. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said peaceful protests over the last few days were "legitimate," but that anyone involved in violence should be punished severely.

Nervous Chinese expatriates were fleeing by land and air. Cambodian immigration police said 600 Chinese crossed into Cambodia over the land border in southern Vietnam on Wednesday and that others were arriving Thursday.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China was "greatly shocked and concerned."

US: Freeing captive girls top priority

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Freeing 276 Nigerian girls from the terrorist group Boko Haram is now one of the U.S. government's top priorities, U.S. officials declared Thursday, issuing warnings about the militant group's expanding reach and growing capacity for more sophisticated and deadlier terrorist attacks.

At the same time, the officials lamented limitations on U.S. cooperation and intelligence sharing with the Nigerian military due to human rights concerns and legal restrictions. They also expressed concern about the Nigerian government's commitment and army's ability to combat the group.

Robert Jackson, a State Department specialist on Africa, said that Boko Haram "has no re-

gard for human life." He said the Obama administration was boosting Nigeria's intelligence and law enforcement capabilities, while seeking global sanctions on Boko Haram at the United Nations.

The girls' abduction last month from a school in the remote Nigerian town of Chibok triggered global outrage. The extremist Islamist militants have threatened to sell the girls into slavery.

"Resolving this crisis is now one of the highest priorities of the U.S. government," Jackson told a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee. Boko Haram, he said, "has been killing innocent people in Nigeria for some time, and the attack at Chibok is part of that long, terrible trend." The group has killed more than 1,000 people this year in attacks on schools, churches and mosques and now

poses a growing threat to neighboring Cameroon, he added.

Testifying alongside Jackson, Alice Friend, the Defense Department's principal director for Africa, said Boko Haram was becoming more dangerous by the day.

The group has proven it is "capable of directly and successfully engaging Nigeria's armed forces," she said.

"In general, Nigeria has failed to mount an effective campaign against Boko Haram," Friend told the panel.

Pressed by Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., Friend acknowledged that U.S. assistance was being hampered by American restrictions on providing any military aid or training to security units even suspected of gross human rights violations.

FAITH



AARON THOMAS, THE (MASON CITY, IOWA) GLOBE GAZETTE/AP

Pastor Jani Dahlin, of Praise Community Church in Mason City, Iowa, ministers to female inmates at the Cerro Gordo County Jail in April. Dahlin's jail ministry started when she went to the jail to visit a former parishioner.

Pastor helps female inmates feed faith

Bible study started with a visit to a former parishioner, has blossomed into a

By PEGGY SENZARINO
The (Mason City, Iowa)
Globe Gazette

MASON CITY, Iowa — Pastor Jani Dahlin, of Praise Community Church in Mason City, spends an hour each week bringing spiritual healing and hope for the future to female inmates at the Cerro Gordo County Jail.

Dahlin's jail ministry started in late August when she went to the jail to visit a former parishioner. When she arrived, the inmate said another woman incarcerated at the jail also wanted a visit.

She visited with both women individually, giving them each a Bible.

"They were very happy to get it. They were already doing Bible study together," Dahlin told the Globe Gazette.

She expected to go back in about a month because her initial contact was scheduled to be in jail for six months.

"But she sent me a letter right away thanking me. She gave me a list of four other ladies who wanted me to come visit," Dahlin said.

"I just thought, I guess I'm going back sooner than I thought. And so I went back and saw them

'Even though they've gotten into a hard place in life, there is hope for them and so it's just exciting to be able to come in and be a voice for hope in their lives.'

Pastor Jani Dahlin
Praise Community Church

again and saw a couple other ladies and every time I'd see someone I'd leave a Bible for them."

Her visits continued that way until December when her initial contact was due to be released. She decided to ask Jail Administrator Shad Stoeffler if she could hold an hourlong Bible study for women every Monday afternoon. He agreed.

The Bible study is different than her individual meetings with the inmates. Previously, she talked with the women on the telephone behind a glass partition. Now she is in the same room with them.

The number of women attending the Bible study fluctuates from five or six to a high of 11.

"I felt like it was a great opportunity to bring encouragement and just affirm their value as people," Dahlin said.

"Even though they've gotten into a hard place in life, there is hope for them and so it's just exciting to be able to come in and be a voice for hope in their lives. They really soak it up."

"It's been a really neat opportunity. I was definitely kind of intimidated when Shad first said I could go every week and be in this room with a bunch of ladies I don't know, who don't know me."

Stoeffler said the program is important in helping the inmates keep positive thoughts. He also said the role of the program in stemming bad behavior in the jail shouldn't be underestimated.

Each session starts with the women introducing themselves and talking about how they are doing. Dahlin introduces the week's Bible passage. The women take turns reading passages.

The program ends with ques-

tions, comments, prayer requests and finally, prayer. "It goes pretty fast," Dahlin said.

What does the program mean to her?

"For me, the word that comes to my mind is privilege," Dahlin said. "To me it's a privilege to be able to go and speak into the lives of people that are at a very difficult place. I try to imagine what it would be like to be in their shoes. I just can't really imagine at least from my perspective."

"Unfortunately for them, it's not hard for them to imagine and it's one of the reasons they're there."

"They just have not known the potential of what their life could be. It makes them vulnerable to fall into things that are destructive for their life."

Dahlin said the jail setting strips away all of the distractions of the outside world and it enables the inmates to see the things that are really important.

"I see myself as being able to help them to kind of get focused on those important things, the value of their life and the potential of it," she said. "Of course, to me, God is the one that gives that value and so just trying to help them to focus and to see that and to know that even they are in low position in this world the sky is

the limit.

"God can give them the strength and the value and the love and the things that they need in order to move toward that potential, and so that's why I say it just feels like a privilege to me to be able to speak that encouragement in their life," Dahlin said. "It is very rewarding."

She said the women seem open to the teachings.

"When you get to the bottom or close to it, you're ready to grab onto something that can really help you to get back out of that pit," she said. "That's what I would hope it would accomplish."

Dahlin and her husband, Pastor Jeff Dahlin, are the parents of six children ranging in age from 6 to 18. She is pastor of discipleship for children and adults. Jeff Dahlin is lead pastor at Praise Community Church.

Dahlin said she was heartened by a letter she received from one member of the Bible study group.

"For some of us out here you are all we really have who gives us any kind of support or shows faith in us, that we're not just worthless criminals," the letter reads. "We are people who have made some mistakes in our life that we can bounce back from."

WORLD

Balkans
drenched,
floodedBosnia rain totals are
most in 120 years

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — A woman and a firefighter drowned and hundreds of people in the Balkans were evacuated from their homes as rain-swollen rivers flooded roads, bridges and railways, closed schools and cut off power and phone service.

In Serbia, nationwide emergency measures were declared. Advancing water swept through towns and villages, overflowing the streets, pushing its way into hundreds of homes and bringing down bridges. Landslides were reported in many areas.

Dozens of buses and cars were stranded on blocked roads and two main north-south railway lines were impassable, officials said.

"What we are facing is the biggest water catastrophe in Serbia's history," Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said. His government appealed for help from the EU, Russia and regional countries.

Both in Serbia and in neighboring Bosnia, meteorologists said the rainfall was the biggest since measuring started 120 years ago. River levels rose all over Bosnia,



Bosnian people work to divert a stream of water from their home Thursday near Zenica, north of Sarajevo. Heavy rainfall caused flooding in Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and parts of Romania.

including the capital Sarajevo.

Maglaj, 60 miles north of the Bosnian capital, was cut off by water surging into streets. Some residents sat on roofs waiting for help.

"The situation is alarming," said Mehmed Mustabasic, the mayor of Maglaj. "We have no electricity, the phones are not working. We are cut off from the rest of the world."

Bosnian military helicopters were employed to evacuate hundreds of people.

In Serbia, emergency officials said more than 600 people have been evacuated. In some areas,

special police and army troops stepped in with helicopters, while thousands of people have been left without electricity and phone service.

"We have engaged all our manpower," said Predrag Maric, a Serbian emergency official. "Waters are rising everywhere."

Belgrade city authorities closed schools for Thursday and Friday. They say the average rainfall from a two-month period fell on the city in just 40 hours.

Firefighters say a woman in a suburban area of Belgrade drowned after she refused to be evacuated from her home, while

a firefighter died during a rescue operation in central Serbia.

Serbian media said at least two more people have been reported missing. The Serbian Orthodox Church said it would hold prayers for the rain to stop.

Strong winds and rain also blocked a key road in Croatia, and heavy flooding was reported in parts of Romania. Both Croatia and Slovenia were on high alert because of upcoming strong winds, officials in the two EU countries said.

The rain is expected to persist until the weekend.

Apology made
for 'Nazi code'

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Procter & Gamble has apologized for "any false connotations" after stirring anger in Germany for unintentionally placing a neo-Nazi code on promotional packages for its Ariel laundry detergent.

Outraged shoppers posted pictures online of Ariel powder boxes featuring a white soccer jersey with a large number "88." The number is sensitive because far-right extremists in Germany often use it as a code to skirt a ban on the use of Nazi slogans in public: since "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet, "88" represents the phrase "Heil Hitler." Similarly, "18" is used to stand for "A.H." or Adolf Hitler.

Procter & Gamble acknowledged Friday that the number was "unintentionally ambiguous."

"We very much regret if there are any false associations and distance ourselves clearly from any far-right ideology," company spokeswoman Gabi Hassig said in a statement. The number "88" was intended to show how many loads of laundry buyers would be able to do with one package.

Haessig said the company has stopped shipping the offending powder, as well as a liquid detergent that was being promoted as "Ariel 18." The number also represented the number of loads that could be done, the company said.



Procter & Gamble's Ariel detergent caused a stir in Germany because the number 18 was seen by some as neo-Nazi code.

From The Associated Press

Major Dutch windmill
farm is in the works

AMSTERDAM — A Canadian firm says it has raised \$3.8 billion to build a major new windmill farm 52 miles off the Dutch coast near Germany.

Northland Power of Toronto said Thursday the 600 megawatt "Gemini" project should be completed in 2017.

That's enough electricity to supply roughly 750,000 Dutch households, if operating at full capacity.

Despite the country's long his-

tory of windmill use, the Netherlands has one of the smallest bases of wind turbines for generating electricity among wealthy nations — less than 5 percent of Dutch electricity production comes from renewable sources.

Dutch governments shifted course on energy policy several

times in the past decade.

The current government offers a flexible subsidy per kilowatt-hour generated, paying more when prices are low and less when they are high.

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WORLD

Bombings, shootings kill at least 21 in Iraq

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Bombings and shootings around Iraq's capital, Baghdad, killed at least 21 people and wounded dozens Thursday, officials said.

The first blast came from an explosives-laden car left in a parking lot in Karrada, a busy commercial area home to several government offices, as well as courts and a hospital.

The explosion killed four civilians and three police officers and wounded 21, a police officer said.

A few minutes later, a suicide bomber with an explosives belt blew himself up at the main gate of an office affiliated with the Higher Education Ministry, killing two police officers and two civilians, the police officer said. The attack wounded 12, he said.

Shortly before midnight, police said a car bomb near an outdoor market killed five people and

wounded 15 in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City.

Meanwhile, police said gunmen stormed the house of an anti-al-Qaida Sunni fighter in the town of Yusufiyah, killing the Sunni fighter along with his wife, son, sister and a cousin. Yusufiyah is 12 miles south of Baghdad.

Insurgents frequently attack members of the Sunni militia, known also as Sahwa, which joined forces with U.S. troops at the height of the Iraq War to fight al-Qaida.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures for the attacks.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists.

Since last year, Iraq has been seeing the worst level of violence since the nation emerged from the Shiite-Sunni bloodletting in 2008.

The United Nations says violence killed 8,868 people in 2013, and killed more than 1,400 people in January and February of this year.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks, which came two days after a series of car bombings rocked the capital and killed at least 34 people.

That was the bloodiest day in Iraq since April 28, when militant strikes on polling stations and other targets killed 46.

The attacks came nearly two weeks after Iraqis cast ballots in the country's first parliamentary election since the U.S. military withdrawal in 2011.

No preliminary results have yet been released, deepening a sense of uncertainty in a country strained by a resurgence of violence.



SHAAM NEWS NETWORK VIA AP VIDEO/AP

This image made from a Wednesday video posed by Shaam News Network, an anti-Bashar Assad activist group, shows a bombing of a military base in Wadi Deir, northwest Syria.

Activists: 29 killed in northern Syria

BEIRUT — An explosion near a border crossing between Syria and Turkey killed as many as 29 people and wounded many others Thursday, an activist group monitoring the Syrian civil war said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosion occurred at a garage near the Bab al-Salameh border crossing in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo. The garage is used by passengers who come to or leave the crossing point, said Rami Abdulrahman, the Observatory's chief.

Abdulrahman said it was not immediately clear if a suicide

bomber caused the blast. He said those wounded were being treated in Turkish and Syrian hospitals. He said the dead included at least five women and three children.

The Local Coordination Committees, another activist group, said a car bomb at the border crossing killed and wounded "many" people.

In Turkey, a government official said 48 wounded Syrians were brought across the border for treatment and that 13 of them had died. Thirty-five of them were being treated in various hospitals near the Turkish-Syrian border, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

From The Associated Press

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WORLD

‘Hurry up and avoid the sheep’

Chinese couples rush to get pregnant before dreaded Year of the Sheep



By WILLIAM WAN
The Washington Post

BEIJING — Some people are born lucky. Parents in China, however, would rather not leave their kids' fate to chance.

For the past few weeks, many couples have been trying desperately to conceive, racing against time to have a baby in the fortuitous Year of the Horse. Their reasoning: No one wants a baby born in 2015, the dreaded Year of the Sheep.

Sheep are meek creatures, raised for nothing more than slaughter. Babies born in the Year of the Sheep, therefore, will grow up to be followers rather than leaders, according to some superstitions. The children are destined for heartbreak and failed marriages, and will be unlucky in business, many Chinese believe. One popular folk saying holds that only one out of 10 people born in the Year of the Sheep finds happiness.

Health professionals say fertility consultations have spiked in recent months. Some doctors even have expressed worries that there may be a corresponding jump in abortions later this year, as couples realize they missed the horse year cutoff. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, the Year of the Sheep (also called goat or ram) begins Feb. 19, 2015, so the window for conception closes around the end of this month.

Many patients have inquired about early delivery via Caesarean section to ensure a horse-year birth, said Li Jianjun, an obstetrician at Beijing's United Family Hospital.

Some doubt the furor will have a notable impact on the Chinese birthrate this year. But the baby-mania is so widespread that the state-run China News Service issued a report trying to debunk the “unfounded” myth of bad luck for those born in Year of the Sheep.

“We try our best to dissuade couples from believing the sheep superstitions,” one official at China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention said. The woman, who requested anonymity because she was not authorized to give an interview, said the subject has become such a prominent issue that it's often addressed in classes for would-be parents. But the medical professionals don't have an easy sell. The official said that even her CDC colleagues are obsessed with the supposed luck a horse year brings.

It's unclear how the Year of the Sheep came to acquire its bad reputation.

Each of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac has its virtues and faults. The undisputed favorite is the dragon, often followed by tiger and horse, which is associated with success.

Even rats (considered clever and agile) and snakes (which look like mini dragons) are considered

lucky. But sheep have fewer advantageous qualities, according to some interpretations.

Those born in sheep years are thought of as passive, loyal, generous and kind. Some of those virtues may be wonderful in an ideal world, but not so useful in the dog-eat-dog real world. “It's an unfair and outdated superstition,” said Dong Mengzhi, 74, honorary president of Beijing's Folk Literature and Art Society. “But it's a convenient way for many to explain an unpredictable world.”

Unfair or not, one of the first things Zhang Xiaolei's parents did when she got engaged in 2012 was sit down with a Chinese zodiac calendar.

“We all agreed to hurry up and avoid the sheep,” said Zhang, 26, a government worker in Shangdong province.

Her husband quit drinking and started exercising in an effort to

increase his fertility. Zhang went on a diet and got more sleep. But after a year and half of trying, nothing. “I don't know what happened,” she sighed. “Maybe it was all that pressure.”

She and her husband — both born in a dragon year, the luckiest of all — have considered themselves with the hope that, if they do conceive later this year, their baby will be that one lone sheep in 10 to find happiness.

Others who fear they will miss their window have flocked to support groups that have sprung up online.

While demographers acknowledge the Chinese zodiac's cultural importance, some have thrown cold water on the idea that it affects birthrates on a national scale.

Some Chinese provinces and hospitals have at times shown increases in births during lucky animal years and decreases in sheep years, but there is no dis-

cernible effect on national demographics, according to Duan Chengrong, a population expert who in 2003 published one of the only studies available on the phenomenon.

“It doesn't mean it isn't a factor,” he said by phone last week. “But its effects are likely diluted and overshadowed by others.”

Among the factors that have affected China's birthrate in recent decades, and complicated the interpretation of such data, are political and economic upheaval and the government's one-child policy.

In other countries, demographers have also grappled with theories of baby booms linked to specific events.

In the United States, for example, New York newspapers famously announced a boom in pregnancies after the massive blackout of 1965, during which couples supposedly had nothing better to do than procreate. But such a phenomenon was debunked in later years by population experts.

For those in China most schooled in the mystical arts of fortune-telling, all this attention to

the Chinese zodiac calendar year is wasted.

“Ordinary people only care about the zodiac because it is much easier to understand than the truth. To us true feng-shui masters, the zodiac doesn't matter at all,” said Wen Chaoliang, 39. “What matters most isn't the year you are born but the exact time of delivery.”

Feng shui is the ancient art of arranging objects or numbers to improve luck.

For \$500, Wen said, he's been helping couples pick the most fortuitous hours for their planned C-sections.

For an extra \$130, he throws in a lucky name. For \$3,000 he'll rearrange your home's furniture to ensure the best possible future for your child.

“Don't you want your baby to be successful? Don't you want your baby to be healthy and beautiful?” he said. “Think about it. Isn't it worth it?”

‘We try our best to dissuade couples from believing the sheep superstitions.’

China Center for Disease Control and Prevention official

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Deadline: May 22

Publish date: June 5

STARS AND STRIPES®

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Booze buyers cross border for low prices

ID STATE LINE — The State Line Liquor Store is just across the border in Idaho, and has become a major destination for booze buyers from Washington.

The store opened a few months after Washington voters passed Initiative 1183, which two years ago privatized liquor sales in Washington.

KXLY-TV of Spokane reported that since then, officials in Kootenai County, Idaho, have seen an increase of \$7 million in liquor sales each year.

The Idaho State Liquor Division says Kootenai County had the highest growth in the state.

The prices keep customers coming back. A price check for a fifth of Black Velvet on either side of the border, showed it costs \$10 in Idaho and \$16 in Washington.

School official resigns after 'chubby' remark

NY MAHOPAC — A New York school board president who described a PTA parent as "chubby wubby" during a public meeting has resigned.

The Journal News said Ray Cote's resignation was announced at a Mahopac Board of Education meeting Tuesday night.

The school district's attorney says Cote also withdrew his candidacy for re-election.

Cote issued an apology. He called his words "inappropriate" and said they "do not reflect my feelings or attitudes."

Cote is a member of a diversity and sensitivity initiative created following racist tweets posted by some Mahopac students during a basketball game.

Couple report finding pot in their burgers

IA OTTUMWA — Police are investigating an Iowa couple's report that they found marijuana among the layers on their double cheeseburgers.

The couple told police they bought the burgers at the McDonald's drive-thru on Richmond Street in Ottumwa on April 26. Ottumwa police Lt. Jason Bell said they reported that, after taking at least a bite each, they noticed plant material that smelled and looked like pot.

The two told the restaurant management about what they found and then contacted Ottumwa police. A sample of the substance was sent to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation for testing. No arrests have been reported.

Restaurant managers have declined to comment.

Man charged after crashing into TV station

MD TOWSON — A man accused of slamming a stolen truck into a television station was charged Wednesday with second-degree attempted murder, and his father said he had recently become prone to violent outbursts.



LARRY STEAGALL, KITSAP (WASH.) SUN/AP

Fur-st responders to the rescue

Bremerton firefighter Missy Griffith gives a kitten oxygen as Central Kitsap firefighter Owen Rhodes provides water at a mobile home fire at the Erland Point Mobile Home and RV Park on Tuesday in Bremerton, Wash. Rhodes rescued the kitten from the fire. A shed was burned to the ground and a mobile home was damaged.

"He'd be screaming 'Oh, boy! Oh, boy!' and sometimes he would punch the walls," Jean-Claudy Baptiste, 64, said of his son, Vladimir. "When someone keeps screaming 'Oh, boy! Oh, boy!' I thought something was wrong."

Vladimir Baptiste, 28, of Parkville, is charged with three counts of second-degree attempted murder, police said. He also faces charges of assault, burglary and malicious destruction of property and theft, online court records show. He was being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center on \$750,000 bail.

Baptiste was taken into custody Tuesday after spending nearly five hours barricaded inside WMAR-TV in Towson, watching journalists deliver live reports from just outside the building.

Fugitive arrested 40 years after prison break

MI ZEELAND — A man accused of escaping from a South Carolina jail nearly 40 years ago has been captured in western Michigan.

Federal marshals said Dallas Smallwood, 58, was arrested Monday in Zeeland, 25 miles southwest of Grand Rapids. He's accused of escaping from an Anderson County, S.C., jail in 1977 while under a five-year sentence for grand larceny and receiving stolen goods.

The U.S. Marshals Service said Smallwood, a trucker, was using the name Waylon Wilson. He's in custody awaiting extradition to South Carolina.

Jail time for man who stole, sold skeletons

OH COLUMBUS — An Ohio man convicted of stealing and selling human skulls and skeletons from a medical college was sentenced Tuesday to 15 months in prison and ordered to pay \$85,000 in restitution.

Weston Moquin, 29, who was an anatomical assistant in the anatomy lab at Ohio University in Athens, pleaded guilty to stealing human remains, autopsy saws and other items from the school, reaping profits from online sales.

Federal Judge James Graham handed down Moquin's sentence at a hearing in Columbus. Defense attorney Keith Yeazel had asked that Moquin get pro-

THE CENSUS



The amount of cash a boy found in a Kansas City, Mo., hotel room, stacked in a drawer, before turning it over to two off-duty police officers working security at the hotel in May last year. A year later, the money is still unclaimed but the boy, Tyler Schaefer, won't see any of it because of a Missouri law written in 1939. In order to stake claim to it, he would have had to file an affidavit with a state court judge within 10 days of finding it; physically posted a list describing the money on the courthouse door and at four other public places; and taken out newspaper ads for three consecutive weeks. The boy deserves the money, Police Capt. Tye Grant said. "We wish the law allowed us to give it back to him," he said.

bation, saying he's a first-time, nonviolent offender who stole to support a painkiller addiction he developed after a back injury.

Federal prosecutors had asked for Moquin to serve 27 months in prison, arguing that he abused a position of trust and damaged Ohio University's reputation.

"As a result of the theft and attendant publicity, the body donor program received many inquiries and it is unknown, and probably unknowable, whether people decided against such a donation based on defendant Moquin's actions," prosecutors Deborah So-love wrote in court documents.

Police: Woman ordered people's home bulldozed

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — Authorities said a north-east Florida woman who didn't like her neighbors had their mobile home demolished.

According to an arrest report, Ana Maria Moreta Folch, of St. Augustine, told a heavy equipment operator that she owned the trailer and wanted it and its septic tank destroyed.

The Florida Times-Union reported that St. Johns County Sheriff's deputies were called when the trailer's real owner arrived Monday and found the demolition underway.

The arrest report said Moreta Folch wanted the trailer bulldozed because she thought its occupants were unsavory and she suspected they had broken into her car.

Moreta Folch was charged with criminal mischief, a third-degree felony. She was released Wednesday on \$10,000 bail. Jail records did not show whether she had an attorney.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

CEO optimistic on Domino's in Italy

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Italy may not seem like the ideal place for a Domino's Pizza shop, but the man who heads the American chain remains optimistic about the possibility.

Despite the skepticism Domino's might initially encounter, CEO Patrick Doyle said that the chain's delivery model may give it an advantage in Italy.

"There's a lot of pizza, but

there's not a lot of delivered pizza," Doyle said. "So there may still be an opportunity."

Italy aside, Domino's, which is based in Ann Arbor, Mich., has been enjoying strong sales



Doyle

growth overseas and boasts nearly 6,000 international locations.

Back at home, where it has 5,000 locations, Domino's has been trying to improve the image of its pizza, which has long been plagued by a reputation for tasting generic and manufactured.

In late 2009, Domino's revamped its recipes and launched a surprisingly frank ad campaign acknowledging the shortcomings of its food and service.

After several consecutive years

of declines, sales have turned positive. Now, the company is in the process of rolling out new store designs that highlight the pizza-making process.

Looking ahead, Wall Street analysts expect Domino's and other national pizza chains, including Papa John's, to take market share away from smaller chains and independent players, in part by using their bigger advertising budgets and more sophisticated online ordering platforms.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 16)	\$1.4013
Dollar buys (May 16)	€0.7136
British pound (May 16)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (May 16)	100.00
South Korean won (May 16)	1,000.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6779/£.5960
Canada (dollar)	1.0876
China (Yuan)	6.2309
Denmark (Krone)	5.4686
Egypt (Pound)	7.1150
Euro	\$1.3672/0.7314
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7518
Hungary (Forint)	232.17
Israel (Shekel)	3.4541
Japan (Yen)	101.69
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	5.9411
Philippines (Peso)	43.67
Poland (Zloty)	3.06
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2523
South Korea (Won)	1,026.90
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8930
Thailand (Baht)	32.48
Turkey (New Lira)	2.0894

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, which keep their local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.38

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.956	\$4.087	\$4.252	\$4.185
Change in price	-1.6 cents	-1.4 cents	-1.2 cents	-1.6 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.857	\$5.150	\$4.985
Change in price	--	-8.2 cents	-9.0 cents	-8.8 cents
U.K.	\$4.022	\$4.187	\$4.120	\$4.120
Change in price	--	-1.4 cents	-1.2 cents	-1.6 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.482	--
Change in price	--	--	no change	--
Turkey	--	\$4.084	\$4.215	\$4.215
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Italy	\$3.974	--	\$4.405	\$4.053
Change in price	no change	--	no change	-1.6 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.839	--	\$3.939
Change in price	--	-2.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.659	--	--	\$3.939
Change in price	-2.0 cents	--	--	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.919	\$4.269	\$4.199	--
Change in price	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-2.0 cents	--
Guam	\$3.919**	\$4.099	\$4.259	--
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-2.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade

For the week of May 17-23

MARKET WATCH

May 14, 2014

Dow Jones

Industrials

16,613.97

Nasdaq

composite

4,100.63

Standard & Poor's 500

1,888.53

Russell

2,103.14

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	91	52	Cir	Chatanooga	69	45	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	57	37	Cir	Louisville	63	43	Cir	Pocatello	70	48	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	60	43	Cir	Cheyenne	61	39	Cir	Fresno	100	66	Cir	Lubbock	86	47	Cir	Portland, Maine	66	54	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	73	63	Rain	Chicago	53	38	Rain	Goodland	68	41	Cir	Macon	75	48	Cir	Portland, Ore.	74	52	Cir
Albuquerque	82	50	Cir	Cincinnati	59	40	Cir	Grand Junction	76	46	Pcldy	Madison	53	36	Cir	Providence	70	59	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	69	62	Rain	Cleveland	57	44	Cir	Great Falls	53	35	Cir	Medford	81	52	Cir	Pueblo	76	43	Pcldy
Amarillo	84	46	Cir	Colorado Springs	68	41	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	75	48	Cir	Mempphis	69	51	Cir	Rapid City	76	61	Cir
Anchorage	67	46	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	77	57	Pcldy	Hartford	63	37	Cir	Miami Beach	83	73	Cir	Reno	86	53	Cir
Asheville	66	44	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	58	42	Pcldy	Harrisburg	68	43	Rain	Milwaukee	50	38	Cir	Richmond	75	66	Rain
Atlanta	70	47	Cir	Concord, N.H.	72	59	Rain	Hartford Spgfd	70	48	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	53	36	Pcldy	Roanoke	69	55	Cir
Atlantic City	73	64	Rain	Corpus Christi	84	54	Cir	Helena	70	47	Cir	Missoula	74	46	Cir	Rochester	58	56	Pcldy
Austin	74	64	Rain	Dallas-Ft Worth	86	61	Pcldy	Honolulu	88	74	Cir	Mobile	78	61	Cir	Rockford	54	39	Cir
Baltimore	73	65	Rain	Dayton	57	40	Cir	Houston	82	55	Cir	Montgomery	73	48	Pcldy	Sacramento	93	59	Cir
Baton Rouge	80	49	Cir	Daytona Beach	81	63	Pcldy	Huntsville	68	46	Pcldy	Nashville	66	46	Cir	St. Louis	60	42	Cir
Bilings	64	47	Cir	Denver	68	53	Cir	Indianapolis	57	40	Cir	New Orleans	79	56	Cir	St. Peterburg	81	69	Cir
Birmingham	68	47	Pcldy	Des Moines	58	40	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	76	47	Cir	New York City	72	61	Rain	St. Thomas	86	75	Pcldy
Bismarck	62	35	Pcldy	Detroit	57	41	Cir	Jacksonville	79	59	Cir	Newark	71	62	Rain	Salerno, Ore.	47	37	Cir
Boise	68	57	Pcldy	Duluth	51	33	Cir	Juneau	71	41	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	77	68	Rain	Salt Lake City	82	55	Cir
Boston	71	60	Cir	El Paso	50	39	Cir	Kansas City	60	36	Pcldy	North Platte	61	36	Cir	San Angelo	83	49	Cir
Bridgport	66	50	Rain	Elkins	60	47	Cir	Key West	84	77	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	77	49	Pcldy	San Antonio	77	66	Cir
Brownsville	84	58	Cir	Erie	56	48	Cir	Knoxville	67	45	Cir	Omaha	61	35	Pcldy	San Diego	86	68	Cir
Buffalo	50	49	Rain	Fairbanks	71	47	Cir	Lake Charles	82	54	Cir	Orlando	83	65	Pcldy	San Francisco	73	55	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	75	62	Cir	Flagstaff	69	43	Cir	Lansing	54	35	Cir	Paducah	62	43	Cir	San Jose	82	57	Cir
Caribou, Maine	73	57	Cir	Fort Collins	63	44	Cir	Las Vegas	100	73	Pcldy	Pendleton	78	56	Cir	Santa Fe	78	40	Pcldy
Casper, Wyo.	64	38	Cir	Fargo	33	19	Cir	Lexington	60	42	Cir	Pexia	57	41	Cir	St. Marie	42	36	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	79	58	Cir	Flint	77	36	Pcldy	Lincoln	62	34	Pcldy	Philadelphia	72	63	Rain	Savannah	79	55	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	65	48	Cir	Fort Smith	71	42	Cir	Little Rock	72	44	Cir	Phoenix	102	71	Cir	Seattle	68	54	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	74	53	Cir				Los Angeles	92	67	Cir	Pittsburgh	61	47	Cir	Shreveport	77	45	Pcldy	

National temperature extremes

City

Hi

Lo

Santa Ana (John Wayne Airport), Calif.

City

Hi

Lo

San Diego, Calif.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes

Hi: Wed., 106, Santa Ana (John Wayne)

Airport), Calif.

Lo: Wed., 7, Climax, Colo.

WEEKEND



**Find out what will be popping up
on the big screens this season**

Pages 24-26

Fortunate fortress

Marksburg castle in Germany's Rhine valley has stood strong for 800-plus years

Quick Trips, Page 30

Family fun in Japan

Mountain views, warm onsens and black eggs await in Hakone

Quick Trips, Page 34

More new MJ tunes

The latest grooves from the late King of Pop are just OK

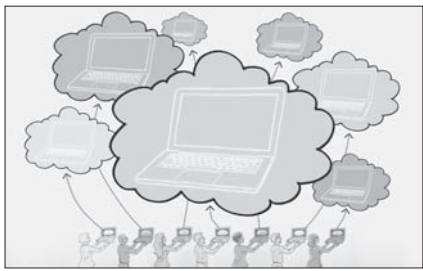
Music, Page 36

If it fits ...

Which athletic shoe is best? That's up to the individual wearer

Fitness, Page 41

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



The cloud offers endless data storage, but no guarantee of security.

What does the cloud really do?

By JIM ROSSMAN
The Dallas Morning News

We've all heard about "the cloud." But I'm willing to bet some people don't know exactly what the cloud can do.

The cloud is a means of storing files or providing services over the Internet instead of on your local computer.

Email was probably most users' first interaction with the cloud.

The email server is in a data center somewhere on the Internet, and users retrieve their mail messages by making a request to the mail server.

Depending on how the email account was configured, messages are either stored on the server or downloaded to the user's computer and removed from the server.

Today the cloud has expanded to include more services.

Users can keep their files in the cloud to hedge against local hardware failure. Services like Dropbox, Evernote and Google Drive exist to let users keep their files securely in the cloud.

Of course, Apple and Microsoft

have jumped into the cloud market with iCloud and SkyDrive.

People who are worried about the safety of their digital pictures can store a copy of their photos on the cloud servers of photo-centric services such as Flickr or PhotoBucket.

Music services like Apple's iTunes Match or Amazon's Cloud Music exist so users can keep a copy of their music files in the cloud.

Finally, fast Internet connections make it possible to back up your entire computer to services such as Crashplan, Mozy or Carbonite.

Many of these services offer a free account with a small amount of storage, and users can purchase more space for a monthly fee.

Some people are nervous about storing their personal data on the Internet, where it could fall prey to hackers. I used to tell people that secure Internet connections kept that kind of thing from happening, but with the recent HeartBleed vulnerability, all bets are off.

I can tell you I still use Dropbox and Google Drive and iCloud and Crashplan.

On the cover: Illustration by Noga Ami-rav/Stars and Stripes

GADGET WATCH

Digital storage you can count on

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Digital storage — probably the most important words in the world of technology — is critical to everyone.

Western Digital's Thunderbolt My Passport

Pro is the mother of all storage. It provides up to a whopping 4TB (yes, that is terabytes)

in a cargo pants pocket-sized (5.6 by 3.5 inches, 1.9 pounds) portable hard drive with RAID storage.

The RAID 1 system divides the hard drive in half to give your data a duplicate copy in the other half. It transfers at rates as high as 233 megabytes per second and if you know anything about the digital world, you know that's fast.

The cable, which connects via the Thunderbolt port, powers the hard drive, so no AC adapter is needed. The cable is attached to the portless drive and winds up around the cable management system.

It's all built into an aluminum case to make a nice-looking companion to any Thunderbolt-enabled computer.

Online: wdc.com; 4TB \$429.99, 2TB \$299.99



The Toshiba USB 3.0 flash drive is available up to an incredible 128GB for those who want even smaller portable storage.

The TransMemory Pro USB 3.0 Flash Drive has secure ultra-high-speed data transferring with read speeds of up to 222 MB/second and write speeds up to 205 MB/second.

It includes built-in security software with encrypted password protection in private partitions for use on a Mac and Windows operating systems. There's nothing to set up; just plug-and-play for business, personal or student use.

Online: toshiba.com/us; 4TB for \$129.99 and the 64GB is \$79.99



The SanDisk 128GB microSDXC memory card is not much bigger than the average pinky fingernail, pretty much taking portable digital storage as small as you can get.

It's ideal for cameras along with GPS units,

computers, tablets and smartphones with memory card slots. Even if your device has a standard SD card slot, SanDisk includes an adapter to make it work.

A note on the back states that the memory card is waterproof, temperature proof, shock proof and X-Ray proof. Check your device to make sure it's SDXC compatible. If it was introduced after January 2009, it probably is.

According to SanDisk, 128GB is good for 16 hours of Full HD video, 7,500 songs, 3,200 photos and more than 125 apps.

Online: sandisk.com, \$199

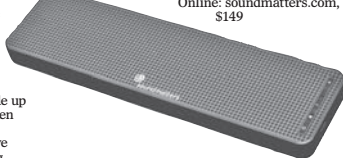
The Soundmatters foxL DASH A portable Bluetooth speaker works with any Bluetooth-enabled device, which is just about every smartphone, tablet, computer and portable media player on the planet.

This very well might be the first time you heard the word "Twoofers," which are the company's tweeters that also work.

The wireless sound is amazing, but if you're in the dark ages, with a Bluetooth-less device, you can use the included 3.5mm mini stereo cable.

The pancake-thin speaker is only 0.62 inch thick with a 2.1-inch width and 7.5 inches long. You'll get about 10 hours before a charge is needed, and it also has a microphone to take a hands-free call.

Online: soundmatters.com, \$149



The new Presence hands-free headset from Sennheiser is described as "a category killer, (with) three microphones, noise canceling, and clear voice quality."

I couldn't describe it any better, but one thing it didn't mention was it's probably one of the slickest-looking devices I've seen. And it has an intuitive user interface, unlike many other manufacturers' versions.

Features include Bluetooth 4.0 technology, plus Sennheiser's unique SpeakFocus, WindSafe and ActiveGuard technology.

All this means to you is it sounds amazing.

Online: sennheiser.us; \$142.79



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on iTunes for May 14:

1. "Don't Stop," 5 Seconds of Summer
2. "Problem," Ariana Grande (feat. Iggy Azalea)
3. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea (feat. Charli XCX)
4. "All of Me," John Legend
5. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
6. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
7. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
8. "Love Never Felt So Good," Michael Jackson & Justin Timberlake
9. "Wiggle," Jason Derulo (feat. Snoop Dogg)
10. "Heaven" (The Voice Performance), Jake Worthington

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 streamed tracks on Spotify for May 5-11:

1. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
2. "Problem," Ariana Grande
3. "Summer," Calvin Harris
4. "All of Me," John Legend
5. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry
6. "Talk Dirty" (featuring 2 Chainz), Jason Derulo
7. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake and Lil Jon
8. "Latch," Disclosure
9. "Pompeii," Bastille
10. "Ratler Be" (featuring Jess Glynne), Clean Bandit

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for May 14:

1. "Her"
2. "That Awkward Moment"
3. "3 Days to Kill"
4. "Franken-stein"
5. "Frozen"
6. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
7. "Maidenrip"
8. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
9. "Pompeii"
10. "Ride Along"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the top 10 handheld games for May:

1. "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
2. "Luftrausers," Vita
3. "Fez," Vita
4. "Mario Golf: World Tour," 3DS
5. "Professor Layton and the Azran Legacy," 3DS
6. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Vita
7. "MLB 14: The Show," Vita
8. "Tjx," Vita
9. "God of War Collection," Vita
10. "Yoshi's New Island," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for May 14:

ANDROID

1. Make It Rain: Love of Money
2. MLB Perfect Inning
3. CSI: Hidden Crimes
4. Google Docs
5. Forest Mania

Top 5 free apps for May 14:

APPLE

1. 100 Balls
2. Microsoft Word for iPad
3. Make It Rain: The Love of Money
4. Google Docs
5. 2048

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



1

Pepsi celebrating soccer with visual album



AP

Pepsi is pairing singers and filmmakers to release a visual album that celebrates soccer during the World Cup. Spike Lee (shown), Timbaland, Idris Elba and Kelly Rowland are some of the artists whose work is featured on the Pepsi-curated album, "Beats of the Beautiful Game," to be released in its entirety June 10. Pepsi says the album will have 11 anthem-like songs and short films.

Who needs an official World Cup sponsorship to be in the sporting limelight?

Pepsi is making its own break for the goal by pairing singers and filmmakers to release a visual album that celebrates soccer during the World Cup.

Spike Lee, Timbaland, Idris Elba and Kelly Rowland are some of the artists whose work is featured on the Pepsi-curated album "Beats of the Beautiful Game," to be released in its entirety June 10. The soda company announced this week that its album will be a collection of 11 anthem-like songs and short films.

"What I love about this is how creative it is," said Rowland, whose song "The Game" will have a video directed by Lee. "It's a project with a whole bunch of different artists being able to do different songs. I'm excited about being a part of something like this."

The Janelle Monae track, "Heroes," was the first single to debut in April. Others will follow each week starting May 20.

PepsiCo Inc. is looking to gain global attention in a battle with Coca-Cola Co., which is the main sponsor for the World Cup that kicks off June 12 in Brazil. The launch of the visual album is another attempt to build its brand with major figures without mentioning the event.

The new album also features rising British singer Rita Ora, and Elba will direct a video for the song "Unstoppable" from the DJ-producer R3hab and singer Eva Simons, both Dutch-based acts.

The performers are not expected to appear in the short films, though Janelle Monae is represented in her film as an inspirational comic book character.

Lee wants to include Rowland in his. "I got to sneak a picture in there somewhere," the director said with a chuckle. ... "She'll be in there. I promise you."

— The Associated Press

• Watch the first track and video — er, short film — from "Beats of the Beautiful Game" at tinyurl.com/JMheroes

2

Spike Jonze's 'Her':
The future now on DVD

Why would you want to see a movie with a creepily mustachioed Joaquin Phoenix and the disembodied voice of Scarlett Johansson? Well, it's hard to explain without making the plot sound goofy, but trust us — it works. Olivia

Wilde and Amy Adams show up in smallish but spectacular roles, and a creatively shot Los Angeles adds to the oddly credible tale.

• A review of "Her" and other new DVD releases on Page 39.



3

Black Keys try different
color with 'Turn Blue'

Fans of The Black Keys have been wondering what was next after the band released massively successful albums in 2010 and 2011. The Keys turn down the momentum and tone in "Turn Blue," largely a reflection of band member

Dan Auerbach's divorce. Will this be a direction that fans and music lovers are willing to follow? Check it out and see what you think.

• Album review of "Turn Blue" on Page 37.



4

Best comic book
characters, Part II

Every 'best-of' list is debatable, of course, but Paste.com seems to have gotten this one right. We're not going to tell you who No. 1 is, though. That would be positively villainous. You'll have to see for yourself.

• Entire list is at tinyurl.com/kruo46j



WEEKEND: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW

HOLLYWOOD BETS BIG AGAIN

By JAKE COYLE/The Associated Press

Like jumbo jets on the runway, Hollywood's summer movies are lined up, ready for takeoff. Will they hit any turbulence?



DISNEY/AP

Spanish accessory designer Manuel Albarran created the collars and jewelry that Angelina Jolie wears in the movie "Maleficent," which opens in the U.S. on May 30 and on some installation theaters on June 6.

If the movie business had a fasten your seat belt light, it was certainly flashing last summer. A number of high-profile films tanked while onlookers like Steven Spielberg warned of a coming implosion for an increasingly blockbuster-bound Hollywood. A kind of blood sport took hold where — even though the summer's box office ended up setting a record high — some took glee in the downturns of

Hollywood's roller coaster ride.

"Blood sport" is the perfect word for what I saw last year," says Michael Bay. This year, he'll release "Transformers: Age of Extinction" (June 27), a cast makeover for the franchise, and produce another reboot, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (Aug. 8). A blockbuster veteran, he's accustomed to the frenzied pressures of the season. "They try to make my movies down every time," says Bay. "The worse reviews I get, the better the

box office is. Go figure."

Box office will be the chief barometer of success for the nearly 50 wide releases to open between May and Labor Day in Hollywood's yearly rite of superheroes, sequels and spectacle. It's the time of year when Hollywood bets big on seemingly can't-miss concepts that nevertheless occasionally miss.

This summer kicked off with "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" (May 2), Sony's second installment of its second Spider-Man series. With two sequels and two spinoffs (for Venom and Sinister Six) planned,



The veteran: Michael Bay reboots 'Transformers'

Summer is the season of Michael Bay.

As much as anyone else, Bay — in movies like "Armageddon," "Pearl Harbor" and "Transformers" — has shaped what the summer movie is: its quick-cutting bombast, its visual-effects flourish, its capacity for mass destruction.

This summer, he'll release "Transformers: Age of Extinction," the fourth film in the franchise, with a revamped cast led by Mark Wahlberg. The 49-year-old Bay, who also produces "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (Aug. 8) later in the season, is well acquainted with the scale of the modern blockbuster.

"I've been doing these movies a long

time," said Bay in a recent break from the editing suite. "When all is said and done, maybe 3,500 people will have worked on this movie. It's one day at a time. You can't panic. My pep talk to everyone is: This is when the pro (expletive) starts and separates the men from the boys."

"Age of Extinction" subs out the sometimes combative Shia LaBeouf with an older, more established action star in Wahlberg. It's planned as the first of a redesigned "Transformers" trilogy.

Bay and Wahlberg first connected on last year's comic crime caper "Pain & Gain," a relatively low-budget project for Bay

and one of his most critically acclaimed films.

Wahlberg has already vowed that "Age of Extinction" will be the biggest movie of the year. While optimistic, it's not out of the question. The last "Transformers" film, 2011's "Dark of the Moon," made more than \$1.1 billion worldwide.

"It feels fresher with the cast," says Bay. "It's like when you get the new 'Batman' franchises, things get dressed up in a different way. I think the franchise still has a lot more to offer."

— Jake Coyle/AP



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Director Michael Bay, left, with Mark Wahlberg on the set of "Transformers: Age of Extinction."

WEEKEND: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW



OPEN ROAD FILMS/AP

John Leguizamo, left, Enjay Anthony and Jon Favreau star in the independent film "Chef." Favreau wrote and directed the movie, which also stars Sofia Vergara and Bobby Cannavale.

Spider-Man proves the intensive, high-speed nature of franchise-making in today's Hollywood: Sequels are now developed by the bushel.

Among the summer's other biggest potential blockbusters: the monster re-do "Godzilla" (May 16), the time-traveling mutant thriller "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (May 23), the warped fairy tale "Maleficent" (May 30), the animated sequel "How to Train Your Dragon 2," the Clint Eastwood-directed musical "Jersey Boys" (June 20), the gun-toting gorilla tale "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" (July 11), the demigod drama "Hercules" (July 25) and Marvel's outer-space adventure "Guardians of the Galaxy" (Aug. 1).

The steady drumbeat of high-decibel drama will leave little room for error.

"I've been the windshield and I've been the bug," says Jon Fa-

I've been the windshield and I've been the bug.

Jon Favreau

director of summer flicks "Iron Man" and "Cowboys & Aliens"

vreau, the director of the widely popular "Iron Man," as well as the less successful "Cowboys & Aliens."

This summer, Favreau takes a break from tentpoles with "Chef," an independent film he wrote

and directed about a big-name restaurant chef who loses his job and opens a food truck. The biggest summer films will be among the most test-screened, audience-tracked releases of the year, carefully shaped to entertain audiences whose social-media appetites are whetted by months of trailers and sneak peeks.

Whereas some studios have been pulling back on their production schedules, focusing on fewer but bigger movies, Warner Bros. is running the other direction. This summer, the studio will release a leading eight movies.

"The domestic box office and the worldwide box office are at record heights, and it's continuing to grow, especially in the international world with China and Russia, in particular," says Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "We're going to let it fly this summer."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Beyond the blockbusters

More exotic creatures thrive in the shadows of summer blockbusters. Here are 10 of the most anticipated indie films due this summer.

1. "The Rover" (June 13): David Michod's follow-up to his Aussie crime drama "Animal Kingdom" qualifies as a must-see because of the rare quality of his feature film debut. This one, which will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, stars Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson and is set in a near-future Australia where the world economy has collapsed and bandits roam the Outback.

2. "Boyhood" (July 11): Richard Linklater spent 12 years making this wholly unique film. It charts a fictional family over that time (Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette play divorced parents) and, remarkably, shows the maturation of 6-year-old Ellar Coltrane (playing their son) from boy to man.

3. "The Immigrant" (May 16): Tales of immigrants arriving through Ellis Island are a well-trod genre, but James Gray's 1920s drama is distinct in its portrait of the American Dream as both myth and reality. With Marion Cotillard and Joaquin Phoenix.

4. "Life Itself" (July 11): Steve James ("Hoop Dreams") presents a documentary and ode to the late film critic Roger Ebert.

5. "Begin Again" (July 4): Much like John Carrey's "Ones," this is a naturalistic, street-level drama of musicians. Keira Knightley stars as a British singer-songwriter discovered in New York by a down-on-his-luck music executive (Mark Ruffalo).

6. "Magic in the Moonlight" (July 25): Woody Allen's annual offering this year is a comedy set on the French Riviera in the '20s starring Colin Firth and Emma Stone.

7. "Tracks" (May 23): Mia Wasikowska stars as Robyn Davidson, who in 1977 trekked across 1,700 miles of the Australian Outback to reach the Indian Ocean. Adam Driver ("Girls") stars as the National Geographic photographer who trails her.

8. "A Most Wanted Man" (July 25): Anton Corbijn's adaptation of John le Carré's novel.

9. "Wish I Was Here" (July 18): Zach Braff took a lot of criticism for his use of Kickstarter to help fund his second directorial effort following 2004's "Garden State." Braff also stars as a struggling actor who homeschools his kids.

10. "They Came Together" (June 27): David Wain and Michael Showalter deconstruct the romantic comedy with a cast led by Paul Rudd and Amy Poehler.

— Jake Coyle/AP

The rookie: Chris Pratt enters a new 'Galaxy'

After Chris Pratt tweeted a shirtless photo of himself to flaunt the shape he had gotten into for "Zero Dark Thirty," he received, he says, a "giant ball of criticism" from his friends. It also helped land him the lead in one of the summer's biggest movies.

When Marvel executives Kevin Feige and Louis D'Esposito sat Pratt down to discuss starring in "Guardians of the Galaxy," they pulled out the photo (it had gone viral) and asked: "How long would it take you to get into this shape?"

The photo had changed how both Pratt's fans and Hollywood executives saw the actor best known as the lovably

goofy Andy Dwyer on NBC's "Parks and Recreation." Pratt says his buff physique is "essentially a costume that I worked really hard to put on."

"No one has head shots and résumés anymore. They just Google you," he said in a recent interview. "If you Google me, it would be a fat, sweaty, albeit hilarious picture of me. It was not what I wanted people to be seeing if I was going to be in contention for these roles."

In "Guardians of the Galaxy," which Disney will release Aug. 1, Pratt stars as a cocksure space adventurer who unwittingly becomes the target of an intergalactic manhunt. For Marvel, it's a lesser-known comic-book property

with a more comic, off-kilter story.

Following supporting turns in "Moneyball" and "Her," it's a significant bump into big-budget stardom for Pratt. He's currently in Hawaii shooting another potential blockbuster, "Jurassic World."

"This is definitely uncharted territory for me," says Pratt. "It does feel like I'm starting another chapter."

Pratt also voiced the lead in the hit animated film "The Lego Movie" earlier this year. With "Guardians of the Galaxy," Pratt — often penniless on "Parks" — might surpass \$1 billion at the box office in 2014.



DISNEY/MARVEL/AP

Chris Pratt stars in "Guardians of the Galaxy."

"That's pretty cool," he says, contemplating the possibility. "Yeah, that will be a good year. I feel like I've just been invited along for the ride."

— Jake Coyle/AP

WEEKEND: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

John Lloyd Young stars in the upcoming movie "Jersey Boys." "The domestic box office and the worldwide box office are at record heights, and it's continuing to grow, especially in the international world with China and Russia, in particular," says Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros.

FROM PAGE 25

But unexpected events and swift changes in taste have a way of interrupting Hollywood's increasingly finely planned release strategies. (Marvel president Kevin Feige recently said he's plotted its movies through 2028.)

This summer, two anticipated films — "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (July 25) — will have to navigate recent sexual abuse allegations of its directors, Bryan Singer and Woody Allen, respectively. (Both have denied the allegations.)

There are few non-superhero certainties in the movies right now, but Melissa McCarthy and "Tammy," the star of "The Heat" and "Identity Thief" is virtually unparalleled in her ability to almost single-handedly open a movie. On July 2, she'll debut "Tammy," a road-trip comedy she wrote with her husband, Ben Falcone, who also directs.

Marvel expands its own all-powerful universe with "Guardians of the Galaxy," a more comical twist for the comics maker about a gang of oddballs in the farthest reaches of space. Chris Pratt transforms to big-budget action movie star.

Just as "Guardians" shows Marvel extending beyond its comfort zone, "Maleficent" finds Disney pushing



Dreamworks Pictures

Hiccup and Toothless take flight in "How to Train Your Dragon 2." Below left, James McAvoy, left, and Patrick Stewart also face-to-face in "X-Men: Days of Future Past." Below right: The character Caesar in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is performed by Andy Serkis.



20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

into darker territory. Starring Angelina Jolie in her first major on-screen performance in years, it's "Sleeping Beauty" from the villain's perspective.

It's helmed by Robert Stromberg, the production designer of "Avatar." Even for a longtime visual effects veteran, it's a staggeringly large film for a directorial debut.

"You enter into this position of directing one of these movies with the idea that there are potentially a lot of people who feel maybe the better story is watching the Hindenburg burn," says Stromberg. "What I can do is be the best I can at something, with a lot of great people, and present it, and let the chips fall where they may."

In between the blockbusters, releases like Seth MacFarlane's "A Million Ways to Die in the West" (May 30) and "22 Jump Street" (June 13) will offer comic relief.



20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

Upcoming releases on installation theaters

- May 23: "Godzilla" (PG-13)
- "Million Dollar Arm" (PG)
- May 30: "Blended" (PG-13)
- "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (PG-13)
- June 6: "Maleficent" (PG)
- "A Million Ways to Die in the West" (R)
- June 13: "Edge of Tomorrow" (PG-13)
- "The Fault in Our Stars" (PG-13)
- June 20: "22 Jump Street"
- "How to Train Your Dragon 2" (PG)
- June 27: "Jersey Boys" (R)
- "Think Like a Man Too" (PG-13)

Looking ahead: Summer 2015

I must confess: I could skip ahead to next summer's box office offerings.

This summer, there's not much that excites me. Not being a 10-year-old boy, I don't care about "How to Train Your Dragon 2." Not being a 15-year-old boy, I don't have "Godzilla" and a new Transformers flick high on my list. I'm a little bit fairy-taled out thanks to "Once Upon a Time" and the incessant playing of the music from "Frozen," so "Maleficent" doesn't really appeal, either. And the new X-Men movie feels like a retreat of sci-fi storytelling.

But next summer? Even with "Superman vs. Batman" moved to 2016, summer 2015 is shaping up to be the best box office season ever.

Here's what I'm saving up for to see next summer — which now starts in April:

- **"The Avengers: Age of Ultron":** Even though it won't have Loki (Tom Hiddleston), it will have Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) and Hulk (Mark Ruffalo). And for the guys, Scarlett Johansson returns, and Elizabeth Olsen joins the cast as Scarlet Witch.

- **"Tomorrowland":** A sci-fi flick starring Hugh Laurie and George Clooney.

- **"The Minions":** An origin story about the little yellow critters that were the true stars of the previous "Despicable Me" movies. Here's hoping they can carry an entire movie.

- **"Pitch Perfect 2":** The first one was a feel-good riot, featuring the talented Anna Kendrick and the fantastically funny Rebel Wilson. Can't wait for the Barden Bellas to reunite.

- **"Magic Mike XXL":** I went to see the original thinking it would be nothing but impressive visuals (Whoa! shirtless Channing Tatum!), and was pleasantly surprised by the plot and knocked over by the performance by Matthew McConaughey — now an Oscar winner! His character was something to behold — and just not because McConaughey was in incredible shape.

Here are a few other highly anticipated 2015 summer movies:

- **"Entourage":** The TV hit makes it to the big screen.
- **"Assassin's Creed":** Movie based on the video game stars Michael Fassbender.
- **"Fast & Furious 7"**
- **"Ted 2"**
- **"Ant-Man"**
- **"Terminator: Genisys"**
- **"Fantastic Four"**
- **"Mad Max: Fury Road"**
- **"Jurassic World"**

— Danielle L. Kiracofe/Stars and Stripes

The A-Lister: McCarthy's 'Tammy' a family affair

The idea for Melissa McCarthy's upcoming comedy, "Tammy," was born over breakfast.

The film is directed by McCarthy's husband, Ben Falcone. They wrote it together, from Falcone's early-morning epiphany.

"He came downstairs one morning, blurry-eyed, hair all over the place, in his pajamas, and goes: 'I'm not sure if I had a dream, but I want to write a movie where you go on a road trip with your grandma and I think she's an alcoholic and she sleeps around,'" says McCarthy. "He was, like, not fully awake. I was like, 'OK. That sounds great. Want some coffee?'"

Six years later, that concept has turned into the biggest professional collaboration yet for McCarthy and Falcone. In "Tammy," McCarthy plays a woman who loses her job and embarks on a road trip with her

grandmother (Susan Sarandon).

McCarthy and Falcone have performed together since meeting at the Groundlings, the Los Angeles-based improv troupe.

"It's always been really fun to do stuff with him," says McCarthy. "You always have those people for whatever reason you have the right chemistry with, and Ben is definitely that fella for me. And I tend to like him quite a bit. I'm going to keep him."

The movie extends an often ironic on-screen relationship for Falcone and McCarthy. Though they've been happily married since 2005 and have two daughters together, their encounters on-screen are often tempestuous. In last year's "The Heat," Falcone made a cameo as a love-sick former lover she keeps spurning.

"He's horrible to me

in 'Tammy,'" says McCarthy. "He's the one who fires me. I say terrible things to him."

McCarthy spoke recently by phone from Budapest on the set of "Spy," her latest comedy with Paul Feig ("Bridesmaids," "The Heat"). She said she was wearing a short, very curly gray wig: "I'm like a kid in a candy store with wigs. Give me wigs, and I'm good to go."

While her work with Feig has grown into one of the best actor-director combos in comedy, "Tammy" is an especially personal release for McCarthy — a film she and Falcone built themselves. It's set in Illinois, near where Falcone grew up and where McCarthy went to college.

"As a writer, you think about that forever: Can you imagine if we got to



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Susan Sarandon, left, and Melissa McCarthy star in "Tammy," out July 2.

do our own thing?" she says. "To have it finally happen, it's a very wild moment for both of us."

— Jake Coyle/AP



WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Neighbors': A crude, lewd, rude dude feud

By ANN HORNADAY
The Washington Post

Seth Rogen and Zac Efron make for amusing alter-egos in "Neighbors," a shaggy, baggy collegiate comedy that is less a coherent movie than a loosely assembled series of lewd jokes and punishing slapstick routines.

Unfortunately, one of the funniest sequences—involving a prank with purloined air bags—has already been overworked to death in "Neighbors" trailers, which also have tipped the film's hand as to its edge-dwelling sense of humor. Viewers who find unbridled hilarity in the idea of babies eating condoms, men dueling with sex toys and 30-something yuppies keepin' it trill by using words like "trill" will find much to value in "Neighbors," as long as they don't get lost in such little details as credibility or lost opportunities.

It seems like just last year that Rogen was cinema's reigning arrested adolescent, cavorting with pals James Franco and Jonah Hill in "This Is the End." In "Neighbors," Rogen is (almost) all grown up as Mac Radner, who with wife, Kelly (Rose Byrne), is raising the world's most awesome baby in a cozy college-town bungalow. When the house next door is sold to a fraternity, the Radners at first try to make nice with the group's president, the charming, bronzed Teddy (Efron), who immediately invites them in for beer and magic mushrooms.

It's all rainbows and unicorns, of course, until the frat's next rager, which leads the Radners to call the police. What ensues is a picket-fence feud of escalating



GLEN WILSON, UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Zac Efron, front, stars in "Neighbors," a comedy about a young couple suffering from arrested development who are forced to live next to a fraternity house after the birth of their newborn baby.

traps and dirty tricks, each more vulgar and explosively violent than the last.

Directed with characteristic haphazard style by Nicholas Stoller ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall," "Get Him to the Greek," "The Five-Year Engagement"), "Neighbors" isn't designed to impress with subtle comedy or clever construction. Rather, it's a movie of whammies: one-liners, shticks and sight gags that don't gain in momentum or accrue

in meaning. They just happen, quickly, then get out of the way to make room for the next ones.

Although Byrne has some promising moments as a bored stay-at-home mom, and Lisa Kudrow shows up in a weirdly unfunny cameo as an uptight college dean, "Neighbors" is primarily a bromance: between Teddy and his best friend, Pete (Dave Franco), a bespectacled brain whose love for his Adonis-like leader is clearly

much deeper than fraternal, and between Mac and Teddy. Rogen and Efron both prove to be excellent sports when "Neighbors" exploits their dramatically different physiques, first during an amusing dance-off and in an improbably rewarding payoff at the end. (As for Mac and Kelly's preternaturally cute baby, Stella, she is adorably and expressively played by twins Elise and Zoey Vargas.)

Until then, however, viewers

New on base

"Neighbors" is playing at these military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Asbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Vicenza and Brunssum.

Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: neighbors-movie.com

must slog through all manner of crude, coarse, often lazily choreographed bits that feel rote and barely warmed-over, from a graphic anatomical stunt performed by the actor Christopher Mintz-Plasse to a dumb scene involving Robert DeNiro impressions. (If the part where Rogen and Efron engage in a "Batman" voice competition seems familiar, it's because Steven Coogan and Rob Brydon did it first and better with Michael Caine impressions in "The Trip.") Still, "Neighbors" will no doubt reward audiences who demand little more than a few broad, easy laughs to be entertained, which, after all, describes most filmgoers these days. To quote Mac and Kelly in their best undergraduate patois: "I'm not judgin'," I'm just sayin'."

"Neighbors" is rated R for pervasive profanity, strong crude and sexual content, graphic nudity and drug use throughout. Running time: 96 minutes.

Faith-based laughs hard to come by in 'Moms' Night Out'

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Faith-based films have become downright commonplace this year. But faith-based comedies? Comedies that work? That's still a very short historical list—the George Burns blockbuster "Oh God" and Andy Griffith's "Angel in my Pocket" are the only two to come to mind. "Moms' Night Out" doesn't join their ranks. A PG-rated romp that never romps, it lacks the jokes, sight gags, pacing and performanceness that are the stuff laughs are made of.

A funny movie doesn't have to leave you with a "Hangover" to give you the giggles. But when you're sending three mothers out for an "epic" night on the town, and you're abstaining from alcohol, profanity and jokes about sex, you'd better make sure the gags you do include are killer, and that you've got a cast that can land those laughs.

Mather Drew plays Ally, a stressed-out mother of three preschool-aged tykes. Her house is a wreck, her husband (Sean Astin) is always traveling and the kids are barely under control. And every so often, she loses it.

New on base

"Moms' Night Out" is playing at:

Europe

Mildenhall, Baumholder, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano and Vicenza.

Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: momsnightoutmovie.com

She's unhappy, so her husband urges her to take a night for herself. She talks her mother-of-two pal Izzy (Logan White) and, oddly, that icon of motherly virtue, her pastor's wife (Patricia Heaton), into a girl's night out "to remember."

Izzy's simpering, helpless husband (Robert Amaya) is lost without her calling the shots. Ally's husband has a regular Saturday night

video game date with an irresponsible, kid-hating pal (Kevin Downes, amusing). And Sondra, the preacher's wife, is fending off a full-fledged revolt from her rebellious teenage daughter (Sammil Hanratty), who is threatening to sneak out while mom's away.

This could get interesting—"Adventures in Babysitting" interesting. Except it doesn't.

As the night runs from losing their reservation at a pretentious restaurant to losing their phones to losing their minivan to losing a baby, and their husbands losing their minds, overwhelmed by simple child care, "Moms' Night Out" sets itself up for laughs that it rarely delivers.

For 45 minutes, the writing/directing brothers Jon and Andrew Erwin ("October Baby") can't manage so much as a smile, mainly due to the blandness of their leading lady. Drew is good at whiny, not good at amusingly whiny.

A few simple sermonettes about motherhood and parenting work. But the Erwins learn, the hard way, that "Sermonizing is easy, comedy is hard."

"Moms' Night Out" is rated PG for mild thematic elements and some action. Running time: 98 minutes.

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THUR MAY 15 - WED MAY 21

In Digital 3D: **Godzilla (PG-13)** - Thur 16:30, 20:30, Fri 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 20:00, Mon - Wed 16:00, 20:30
Captain America: Winter Soldier (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, Fri 16:00, 22:00, Sat 22:00, Mon - Wed 16:00

Neighbors (R) - Thur 16:00, 18:30, 20:30, Fri 15:45, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 16:00, 20:30, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 18:00, 20:15, Mon 16:00, 18:30, Tue & Wed 16:00, 18:30, 20:30

Rio 2 (G) - Sat & Sun 13:30

In 2D: The Amazing Spider-Man 2: Rise of Electro (PG-13) - Thur 17:00, 20:00, Fri 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, Sat 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, Sun 16:00, Mon & Tue 17:00, 20:00, Wed 17:00

In 2D: Godzilla (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, Sat & Sun 14:30, 17:00, Mon - Wed 16:00

The Other Woman (PG-13) - Sat 13:30

Scan Here or visit: www.broadwaykino.com/mmc

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



SEE THIS: 'GOODBYE PICCADILLY'

"Goodbye Piccadilly — from Home Front to Western Front" opens at the London Transport Museum on May 16. A key theme of the exhibition is a look at the lives of women who took jobs during World War I that were previously held by men. They worked as conductors and mechanics on London buses and as porters, guards, conductors and maintenance workers on the Underground. Above, women paint an Underground station. At right is a 1919 scene from Piccadilly Circus. Book tickets at ltmuseum.co.uk.



Photos courtesy of London Transport Museum

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Eat in Antwerp

Feeling peckish? Nibble to your heart's content in Antwerp, Belgium, through the weekend, as the eighth annual Antwerpen Proefit, or Taste of Antwerp, comes to town.

Belgium's largest and most highly regarded food festival showcases signature dishes of both established chefs and rising stars, allows for the tasting of exclusive culinary treats and provides an introduction to the many restaurants that make Antwerp not only a charming but delicious destination.

The offerings of some 25 restaurants are presented as appetizers and are available at a much lower cost than one would pay at the actual establishments. A wide range of flavor sensations are available, such as local Belgian-French, Mediterranean and Asian. Beverages will be flowing in abundance too, from wines and hot citrus or herbal drinks to Martini cocktails.

Festivalgoers will also be able to sample organically grown saffron, local cheeses and pure vegetable ice creams.

The festival, which takes place at the Waagatien, runs from 5-11 p.m. Friday, 3-11 p.m. Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Friday night and on Saturday, an after-hours party featuring DJ music runs until 3 a.m.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

On all days, adults pay 7.50 euros (about \$10.50) at the door; those born in 1998 or later enter for free. Get details at antwerpenproefit.be (Use Google translate for English.)

Dixie on the Elbe

Dresden meets Dixie for the 44th time as the International Dixieland Festival Dresden swings this German city through Sunday. The program of Europe's largest old-time jazz festival offers more than 40 concerts, many with free entry, performed by some 30 bands from nine European countries.

Although the festival opened May 11, many of the highlights on the docket take place through the coming weekend.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to

8:30 p.m., a Jazz Mile, featuring seven stages between the main train station and the Altmarkt, turns the city streets into a massive celebration of sound.

Sunday sees a brass band parade make its melodious way through the Old Town from 4 p.m. along a route running from the Frauenkirche to Pragerstrasse. From 5:30-9:30 p.m., Pragerstrasse will also be the site of the festival's finale, when British traditional music, dating to the 1950s and '60s, will be the featured genre. The closing performance also will include many of the bands that played during the festival's eight-day run.

All of the events above are free. Find more information at dixieland-festival.com.

Hop to ultrarun sign-up

If nature, distance running and music count among your passions, here's your event: the Mozart 100 in Salzburg, Austria, on June 21. This ultrarunning event offers four distances through the city and the mountainous terrain surrounding it, with the last push to the finish taking participants across the Kapuzinerberg, one of the city's six mountains.

Before then, the hardy runners will have traversed roads, trails and narrow paths, passing through forests, meadows,

small towns and alongside a lake, which, legend has it, is home to some elusive mountain mermaids. While you won't see Mozart himself, the towns along the trail will welcome runners with musical entertainment.

Completing the Scenic 100, billed as the country's most beautiful ultracompetition, gains a runner two points toward qualifying for the legendary North Face Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc. This year's Mozart 100 will be the third. A new addition is the City Trail, conceived to keep up with demand as trail and ultrarunning gain popularity. This compact race covers 11.5 km (7.14-miles). Other distances to choose from include 55.8 km and 25.8 km.

Participants must have been born in or before 1998. Online registration is possible until June 17, as well as on site from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 20, provided space remains available. The 101.7-km and 55.8-km distances also can be run as a relay by teams of four. Entry fees range from 220 euros (about \$306) for the 100-km relay to 35 euros for the City Trail for single runners.

If you can't make it yourself, cheer on American ultrarunner Dave James, winner of the kick-off edition of the Mozart 100 in 2012, who faces stiff competition. Learn more at mozart100.com.

Keukenhof closes Sunday

This is the last weekend to enjoy one of Europe's most popular spring attractions, Keukenhof gardens in Lisse, Netherlands. The showcase of Dutch floriculture is expected to have attracted more than 800,000 visitors, admiring more than 7 million flowers, by closing time Sunday.



Wearing oversized wooden shoes, a young visitor to Keukenhof gardens poses for a photo.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY SLOBODAN LEKIC/Stars and Stripes

Tran Cong Nhan, owner of Restaurant Saigon in Kaiserslautern, sits behind a lavishly decorated bar. If you want to dine here, it's best to make reservations; the restaurant has only about 10 tables.

After Hours: Germany

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

One of the more exotic — and exciting — restaurants in Kaiserslautern is Restaurant Saigon, which in the past three years has built up a loyal clientele appreciative of the value-for-money dishes and the very quiet, but casual, atmosphere.

The family-owned restaurant also has built up a solid reputation for authentic Vietnamese fare, and the clientele includes not just Germans and Americans living in the region but also Vietnamese students from the nearby Technical University. This might be one of the reasons Saigon is ranked No. 2 among the 177 restaurants in Kaiserslautern, according to the travel website TripAdvisor.

Owner Tran Cong Nhan is usually the sole server in the restaurant, which has only about 10 tables. Although Tran is invariably friendly and helpful, don't expect quick service because his wife and chef, Duong Thi Lan Huong, prepares each dish from scratch — no microwaving of prepared dishes before serving here.

The two have lived in Germany about 25 years but only opened Saigon in 2010. Although located on one of the main downtown thoroughfares in Kaiserslautern, the restaurant, with its discreet doorway and sign, is very easy to miss.

"The food is amazing; it's always fresh, and the fried rice is to die for," said Stephanie Van-

dine, who was introducing friend Miranda Lee to the restaurant. "And I'm taking orders to go for my husband and kids."

During a recent visit, several other diners said they made it a point to eat at Saigon at least once a month.

Vietnam's cuisine is highly regarded even in Southeast Asia, where it competes with culinary powerhouses such as Thailand and South China. Due to its dependence on water or broth rather than oil and its plentiful use of fresh herbs, vegetables, spices and seafood, it is also considered one of the most healthful in the world.

Meats, which in traditional Vietnamese cuisine are treated more as condiments than as main courses, are usually sliced into thin strips, marinated in fish sauce, then grilled and quickly brought very hot to the table.

Chicken, duck, salmon and pork are often caramelized.

Restaurant Saigon boasts an extensive menu, and popular dishes include beef with onions, glazed duck with ginger, as well as fish and curries. Most dishes come with dipping sauces, which help to give the food its distinctive flavor. By far the two most popular dishes are the fresh spring rolls — with shrimp, thread noodles, cilantro and mint wrapped in see-through rice paper — and the pho soup, a main dish.

Pho, pronounced "fuh," is a popular street food in Vietnam that has somehow evolved into a delicacy in the West. While there are many regional variations, its

RESTAURANT SAIGON

Location: Eisenbahnstrasse 68 A, Kaiserslautern.

Directions: The restaurant is located just beyond the corner of Barbarossa Strasse. Coming from east or west, it's best to drive down Barbarossa Strasse, turn into Eisenbach Strasse and then turn again into one of the side streets to find a parking place.

Hours: Noon-2:30 p.m. and 5-10:30 p.m. weekdays except Wednesdays 12 a.m.; noon to 10 p.m. Sundays. 12 a.m.; closed Wednesdays.

Prices: Starters from 4 euros, soups from 4 euros, entrees from about 10.50 euros, nonalcoholic drinks about 2 euros to 3 euros, wine and beer from 3 euros to 5 euros. Special lunchtime menu every day except Sundays and German holidays with dishes available from 6 euros to 8 euros.

Menu: English is available. **More information:** Telephone (+49) (0)631-4126329. Seating is limited with fewer than a dozen tables, so definitely make reservations on weekends and holidays. Weekday lunches also can get crowded. For reservations, call 0631-4126329.

— Slobodan Lekic

base is an aromatic broth-based rice noodle soup, with added chicken or beef and an assortment of vegetables that usually includes sprouts, mint, lemongrass and Vietnamese coriander.

The restaurant serves Saigon Beer, a favorite Vietnamese lager with its lemony-malty flavor, which complements the food nicely on a hot summer day.

lekic.slobodan@stripes.com



Cold Vietnamese spring rolls are among the favorite dishes at Restaurant Saigon. Fillings can include shrimp, beef or chicken, but the main ingredients are crunchy raw vegetables and thread noodles stuffed snugly into a thin rice paper wrapper.



Braised duck with vegetables as the dish is served at the eatery.



Beef curry with carrots at Restaurant Saigon.



Pho, a favorite Vietnamese street food made of beef, noodles and vegetables, is served with sprouts, coriander and fresh mint at Restaurant Saigon. In three years it has built up a loyal clientele.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Marksburg castle has never been destroyed

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

It is one of the most eye-catching castles along the Middle Rhine Valley. Since the 12th century, Marksburg castle has crowned the highest point above the German town of Braubach and maintains a record that no other in this region can boast — in more than 800 years, the castle has never been destroyed.

It's still a wonder that this stone structure survived the Middle Ages, the years that Napoleon's troops destroyed many of the castles in this region and two devastating world wars.

History buffs certainly will delve into the rich history of the castle, but for those who simply want to enjoy the sights, the surrounding area is equally enjoyable. Braubach offers stunning river views, eateries and walking and biking paths along the Rhine.

My family ticket was necessary not just for a guided tour of the castle, but also to simply enter its interior. The tour lasted 40-50 minutes, and although informative, it did seem rushed, with little time to take photos, and there could have been substantially more history provided in the guide's narrative. Simultaneous tours in German and English were ongoing and often crossed paths. As a result, there were times when I couldn't hear what our guide was saying.

It would have been nice during the tour to have more time to observe and linger — particularly at the outdoor observation deck and garden where more than 150 medicinal plants are grown. There were magnificent views of the Rhine River and the abundant hills around the castle.

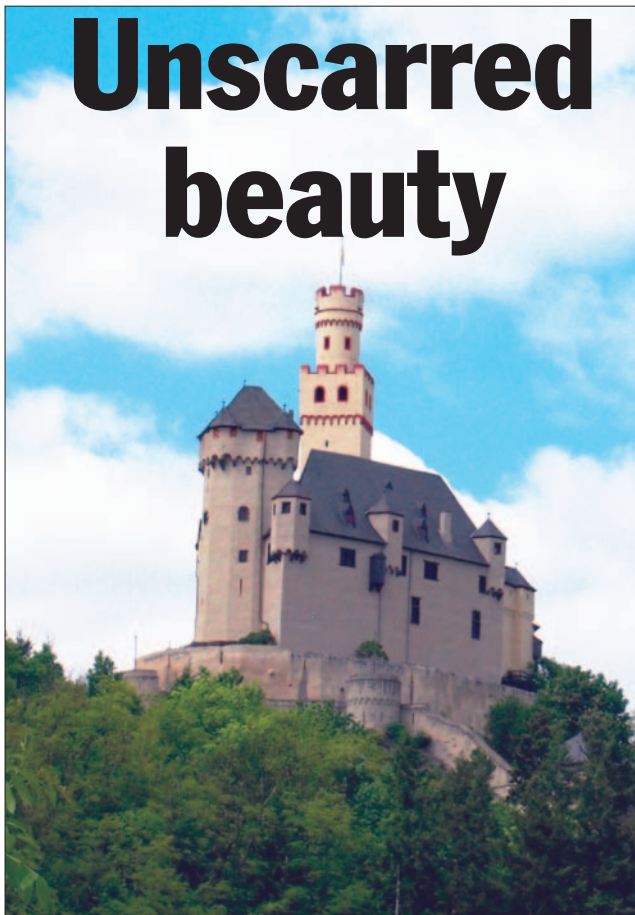
What I did like was that this was an easy family trip, and the kids enjoyed learning about the castle, particularly its "grand" kitchen, as it was known in those times. The ingenuity of days past still surprises me. The guide explained how large ice blocks were cut from the Rhine during the winter months and stored inside caves that acted as sort of medieval ice chests. The blocks were insulated by straw for use all year long.

The castle's main bedroom provided one of the most interesting facts about life in medieval times: Everyone slept in a sitting position to keep death away. Death was thought to come at night, and if you were lying down, you were thought to be susceptible.

For the most part, the castle is child-friendly, but there are stairs and a very tight stairwell from the cellar, which could pose problems for strollers. Small children will enjoy the goat that sits guard watching families picnic next to his enclosed area.

brown.eric@stars.com

Unscarred beauty



PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Marksburg castle has crowned the highest point above Braubach, Germany, for centuries.



Marksburg castle's master bedroom is furnished with a bed that has curtains to be drawn on cold winter nights.



Children will enjoy the resident goat, who munches on lush grass adjacent to the castle walls as families picnic nearby.



By SCHLING Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

From Wiesbaden, take the B42 west toward Bingen, exit Braubach and follow the signs for Marksburg.

TIMES

The castle can be explored only with a tour guide between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily from March to October and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the rest of the year. English guided tours are held at 1 and 4 p.m. each day.

COSTS

Tour prices are 6 euros for adults, 5 euros for students and 4 euros for schoolchildren. Ages 6 and younger are admitted free. Family tickets cost 15 euros. Parking costs 2 euros and is located at the foot of the castle.

FOOD

The castle has a small eatery, but we found prices to be a bit high. Picnic tables are available on a terrace near the ticket office.

INFORMATION

Hikers can take a marked trail from Braubach's town center to the castle. A shuttle train, called the Marksburg Express, also makes a run to the castle from the town center between Easter and mid-October (5 euros round-trip for adults, 4 euros for children 12 and younger). Phone (+49) (0)2627.536; e-mail: marksburg@deutsche-burgen.org; website: marksburg.de has information available in English.

— Eric A. Brown



Castle cannons are still strategically aimed at the Rhine River.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Paris zoo gets a redo

The Associated Press

Nearly everything has changed now that Paris' zoo has reopened after a multi-year, \$230 million makeover.

Gradually, and with no lack of logistical headaches, the 80-year-old Paris attraction returned to life in April after closing in 2008 for the redo. Now macaws cackle, red ibises perch on one foot on a greenhouse raft and the scent of giraffe manure wafts through a cavernous indoor pen — certifying that, yep, this is a bona fide zoo.

The Grand Boulder, the zoo's main landmark (which actually covers a water tower), has been touched up but wasn't quite ready to host visitors for its panoramic views at opening time. When it does, it might help lure visitors to the zoo's site near the eastern suburb of Vincennes and away from Paris' many other highlights.

When the zoo closed, having not been refurbished since it opened in 1934, it was a concrete jungle of traditional animal cages. Now managers trumpet the top-to-bottom renovation: Winding pathways, lush vegetation and 21st-century displays with fewer fences and cages

— and clever landscaping to separate the wildlife from its watchers. A greenhouse as long as a football field features graying trumpeters strutting across a walkway and a lethargic West Indian manatee.

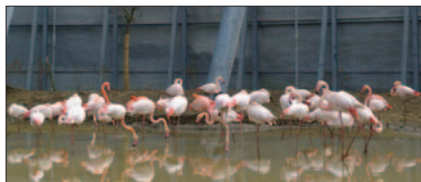
Instead of by type, the animals have been grouped by five regions of origin: Madagascar, Patagonia, Guyana, Europe and Sahel-Sudan, the largest area and home to African savannah roamers. Rolling terrain and artificial rocks point to the effort to re-create natural ecosystems. "It's like a journey around the planet," said zoo director Sophie Ferreira Le Morvan.

Giraffes and ostriches live together in one display area, zebras and rhinos another. Giraffes are a star attraction. Zoo officials say the current population of 16 — some with ancestors that were here in 1934 — amount to the largest grouping of its kind in Europe. The giraffes' indoor dwelling offers close-to-face viewing.

A pack of European wolves and a lion called Neron (the French namesake of Roman emperor Nero), who has his own pen until three lionesses arrive, are likely kid-friendly sights. Signs are in French only, but audio guides are available in

several languages.

The Parc Zoologique de Vincennes is located in the 12th arrondissement of Paris a few metro stops from the city center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday. On the web, see parczooologiqueparis.fr.



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

Pink flamingos gather in an enclosure at the Vincennes Zoo in Paris.

Restaurant Directory

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area <p>Since 1978 Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaistr. 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf. Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	Kaiserslautern area QUACK <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweidenstrasse 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0931 / 42928</p>	Mainz / Wiesbaden area Benjamins Gastel <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto-Suhr-Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 061 34-24999 www.benjamins-gastel.de</p>
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<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barnacks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p>HOTEL AGAT Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau Tel. 06122-4022 Email: info@hotel-agat.de</p>
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<p>KB's Country & Western Saloon Bergstr. 4, 92229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>Café Temptation reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainerberg/PX area) Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>
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<p>Garimich-Partenkirchen Open Wed-Mon, Noon-11pm (Tues, Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 09873-57486 www.ristorante-la-mama-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Saytouni Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Stuttgart Authentic Indian Cuisine Eschwege Str. 11 Phone 0711-99 76 38 16 Leinberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-90 32 32</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of JNTO

DO THIS: Sanja Matsuri in Tokyo

Sanja Matsuri, which translates into **Three Shrine Festival**, is **May 16-18**. It was one of three great festivals in Edo, the former name of Tokyo. This celebration features about 100 mikoshi — portable shrines into which Shinto gods are symbolically placed — in a parade to bring good fortune to the local businesses and residents. The focus of the festival, the three large mikoshi belonging to Asakusa Shrine, are delivered Sunday.

For more information: www.asakusajinja.jp and tinyurl.com/kv3tane



Courtesy of KTO NY

SONG AND DANCE: Festival in South Korea

The Eumseong Pumba Festival May 22 to 25 in North Chungcheong province features pumba performances, a pumba singing contest, a pumba marathon contest, yeok-cutting (Korean taffy) contest and more at the Seol-seong Park area. For more: tinyurl.com/ojq7ro3

FLORAL DELIGHT:
Tsukuba Peony Garden, Japan

This garden in Ibaraki prefecture features 10,000 peonies in 550 varieties. See them now 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through June 1.

OKINAWA:
DRAGON
BOAT RACES

TONAKI VILLAGE HARI

DRAGON BOAT RACE: June 1, 7:45-10 a.m.; the tradition of the harii is linked to the Kaijin-sai (Unjinai), or Fishermen Festival, observed to give thanks to the sea god and pray for the safety and prosperity of fishermen. Races are held in fishing communities throughout Okinawa in late spring and summer; Oujima Beach; 2-hour ferry ride from Naha Port; 098-989-2427.

AGUNI HARI DRAGON BOAT

RACE: June 1, 8:11:30 a.m.; Aguni Port, 2-hour ferry ride to Aguni Port from Naha Port; 098-988-2255.

OUJIMA HARI DRAGON

BOAT RACE: June 1, 8:30 a.m.; Oujima Beach, 35-minute ride from Naha Airport; 098-948-7190.

ITOMAN HARI DRAGON

BOAT RACE: June 1, 9:15 a.m.; Itoman Fisher Pier, Nishizaki of Itoman city, 30-minute ride on regular streets from Naha Airport; free; 098-992-2011.

KADENA HARI DRAGON

BOAT RACE: June 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Kadena Fisher Pier, 10-minute ride to Mizukuma bus stop from Kadena bus terminal; 10,000 yen for one team entry; 098-956-6222.

ON BASE

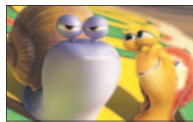
Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Asian Pacific Islander Night is 5-9 p.m. May 24 at **Atsugi Convention Center Outside Patio**. It's \$10.95 and open to all hands and ages. Atsugi's Aquatics is holding its outdoor pool preseason opening noon-7 p.m. May 24-26. Take a rock climbing and camping trip on May 25 with **Yokosuka Outdoor Recreation Center**.

Guam

Enjoy a Memorial Day Bash at Hotspot at **Andersen Air Force Base May 23**. Hike to Taguon Point with Outdoor Recreation May 31.



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/AP

On May 24, see "Turbo" free at Hotspot at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam.

Okinawa

See Eve 6 in concert May 17 and Blind Melon in concert May 18 at **Camp Schwab**. Outdoor Recreation at **Kadena** has paintball open play 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 17-18, 24-25 & 31.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Dive with fishes and watch humpbacks in Japan's Kerama Islands

By YOHEI TOMINO
The Yomiuri Shimburn

At a depth of 4.5 meters, I struggled in a state of weightlessness, which I hadn't experienced for some time. When my soles finally touched the sea floor, I regained my composure sufficiently to take a look around.

The water seemed to be a deeper shade of blue the farther out I looked. In that world of total silence, I was mesmerized by the vivid red and yellow fish darting around rocks and in and out of coral reefs. Occasionally, sunlight would reach the white sand on the bottom of the ocean. It was like being inside a painting of natural colors. Spellbound by the beautiful landscape, I forgot the earache I experienced because of the water pressure.

I was at a diving spot off the Tokashiku Beach on Tokashiki Island, one of the Kerama Islands in Okinawa prefecture.

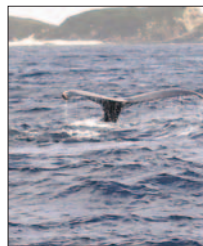
In March, the islands were designated as Japan's 31st national park, the first designation of its kind in 27 years. To see the park's blue ocean for myself, I signed up for a diving session for the first time in several years, this one aimed at unlicensed divers.

I left Tokyo for Naha early in the morning. From Naha's Tomari Port, a high-speed boat



Photos by The Yomiuri Shimburn

Above: Colorful fish swim in the beautiful blue waters off Tokashiki Island, Japan. Tokashiki Island is part of the Kerama Islands group in Okinawa prefecture. **Right:** The tail of a humpback whale.



observe humpback whales.

I'd heard that humpback whales come to the ocean around the Kerama Islands in January and March every year to raise their offspring in the warm water. After April, they head north, it seems.

I boarded a whale-watching boat with about 10 other passengers. After traveling for nearly an hour, our guide, Yuko Asaya, 29, pointed out into the ocean. We looked in that direction and saw spouts of water shooting up from the waves. Eventually, we caught sight of three whales, including a baby, swimming gracefully.

"This place is surrounded by islands, so they have no natural enemies," Asaya said.

service to the island runs twice a day. The next morning, I headed to the beach for the diving session. It was late March. The water was a bit cold, but I gasped when I saw how clear it was.

I traveled to the diving spot with Masatoshi Akiyama, 44, my diving instructor. Akiyama told me the names of fish we saw there by drawing each of them

on a whiteboard — spangled emperor, clown anemone fish, yellowstripe goatfish and more. Time passed very quickly.

On our way home aboard the boat with the sea breeze in my face, I happily reflected back on my diving session.

Akiyama, a diving instructor on the island for 14 years, said, "I don't know much about oceans

elsewhere outside of Japan, but I often hear foreign tourists who have gone diving in oceans across the world say, 'This is amazing!' [when diving here]. Whenever that happens, I feel like our ocean is just as great as I thought."

I had another reason to come to the island at this time of year: It's the season for whale watching. A boat tour is available to

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

A great family day out

Tourist town offers onsens, a lake and views of Mount Fuji

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Are you off to explore Japan on the weekend? Or do you have friends in town and you're looking for a nice outing for the day?

Consider heading to Hakone, a tourist town beside Lake Ashi in Kanagawa Prefecture that's packed with amusements to suit almost anyone.

Hakone is part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, about a 90-minute drive from U.S. military bases in Japan. The area features stunning views of the lake and Mount Fuji, as well as bubbling mud and steam coming out of the ground. And don't forget the *onsens*.

Entrepreneurs have added museums, hotels, restaurants, ferry rides, cable cars and gift shops.

It's possible to buy a pass that will let you ride the ferries, cable cars and buses so that, if you get there by train, you still can move around with relative ease.

People with a lot of energy might enjoy hiking sections of the ancient Tokaido Highway, a stone paved road that once linked the shogun's capital Edo (now Tokyo) with the imperial residence in Kyoto. Hakone used to be the final checkpoint on the road before Tokyo.

Hikers can visit the Amazake Chaya, a tea house that's been serving weary travelers on the highway for 350 years. The tea house, which still features a thatched roof, dirt floors and an open indoor fire pit, serves *amazake* (hot, sweet rice wine) *mochi* (sweet rice cakes) and other snacks as well as hot tea.

The other popular meal for Hakone visitors consists of *kuro tamago* (black eggs), which are cooked in an onsen. Sulfur in the water causes the black color.

Reaching the shop that sells the eggs involves riding to the top of a ropeway and walking up a short track. A bag of five eggs costs 500 yen. You can join crowds of hungry tourists cracking the black eggs open on wooden benches and dipping them in salt. Legend has it that each egg consumed adds seven years to your life!

Afterwards, you can drive around the lake, ride around it in a bus or cruise across it in a "pirate ship." The ships are actually just motor launches decorated to look like pirate ships, but it's possible to have your photograph taken with a role player dressed as a pirate on the way across the lake.

Those who want to experience all that Hakone has to offer might be advised to book a hotel and stay for the weekend, but as a day trip, the town offers plenty of things to amuse the whole family.

robson.seth@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Steam from the region's volcanic activity rises from the ground at Hakone, just outside of Tokyo.



A visitor, left, enjoys "kuro tamago" (black eggs), above, which are cooked in an onsen. Sulfur in the water turns the shells black.



A "pirate ship" will take visitors across Lake Ashi.



ON THE QT

GETTING THERE

By train: If you plan to spend several days in Hakone, it's a good idea to buy the Hakone Free Pass, which provides a round-trip ticket on the express train from Shinjuku Station to Odawara or Hakone Yumoto and includes all modes of transportation in Hakone, such as the mountain tram, cable car, ropeway and boat. Many attractions also grant discounts when you present the pass.

The train trip from Shinjuku to Odawara takes 1.5 hours, and trains run about every 30 minutes. In Odawara, you transfer to the electric mountain tram, which goes to Gora. Some express trains travel all the way to Hakone Yumoto (about two hours), where you can also board the mountain tram closer to Gora.

By car: There are several ways to travel to Hakone by car, depending on where you're coming from. Hakone is about 90 minutes by car from U.S. bases and about two hours from Tokyo. Parking is available throughout the area.

COSTS

The Hakone Free Pass for two days from Shinjuku, round-trip, costs 5,140 yen for adults and 1,500 yen for children.

INFORMATION

In Hakone Yumoto, stop by the Yumoto Tourist Office (open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). It's staffed by English-speaking volunteers only on weekdays. You can pick up pamphlets on the Hakone area and ask directions. It's a two-minute walk from the Hakone Yumoto Station. Take a right out of the station onto the town's main street; the office is on the left. Website: hakone-english.com.

— Seth Robson

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Above: The giant red spider lily is found around Kauai, Hawaii. This lily resides on the grounds of the St. Regis Princeville resort. Left: Kayaks sit lined up and ready on the sands of Hanalei Bay.

PHOTOS BY MARK BOSTER/Los Angeles Times

The colors of Kauai

BY CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
Los Angeles Times

On the North Shore of Hawaii's northernmost island, the earth writhes like a topographer's fever dream — 3,000-foot cliffs, plunging waterfalls, tangled green valleys and sharp, serrated ridgelines. That's the Na Pali Coast.

Just east of those cliffs, Kauai's Kuhio Highway passes taro fields, a seaside village, a two-mile crescent of sand and a 300-foot pier that's dwarfed by mountains, greenery and surging surf. This is Hanalei Bay, which Hollywood would have had to create if Mother Nature hadn't.

You might know this neighborhood from "South Pacific" (1958). Or "The Descendants" (2011).

If Waikiki is the classic crowded Hawaiian beach, the North Shore of Kauai is the iconic coastal outpost.

But everything looks a bit different up close. So my travel companion and I arrived in February, eager to poke around when the crowds are small and the surf is big.

Our timing was not good. The waves were not just big but massive and sloppy, forcing cancellation of most water sports and boat tours. Winds gusting close to 40 mph grounded helicopter tours. Clouds filled the sky for days.

Our first purchase, two bags of groceries in Kapaa, came with a bonus population of bugs. Hanalei (population about 450) didn't feel quite like paradise. But even then, it was easy to look at. On Kauai, Mother Nature paints with vibrant colors.

For me, the center of gravity was the Hanalei Pier, so I spent a lot of time there as fishermen angled for bonefish, local kids leaped into the surf near the "NO JUMPING" sign and feral roosters (endemic on the island)



Surfboards and paddle boards await customers at the St. Regis Princeville resort at Kauai's Hanalei Bay.

pecked at stray coconuts.

One day on the pier, I met Abe Rivera, 15, who was cradling a feral piglet that he'd caught in the mountains on a bow-hunting expedition with his dad. Another day, Erika Green of Waldorf, Md., turned up in her wedding gown, trailed by her new husband, Tim Green, and wedding planner Diana Gardner of Aloha Weddings.

"Most beautiful place on the island," Gardner said as the Greens trod the pier like models on a runway. "And no one else on the beach!"

Well, almost no one. Jett Yar-

berry, a 38-year-old surfing instructor and lifelong North Shore boy, is there most days. "I grew up in that valley," Yarberry told me, pointing west. "My parents came here as hippies in 1968 and evolved into normal people."

These days, North Shore visitors are likely to stay in the hotels and condos of Princeville, play a lot of tennis and golf, and alternate water sports with hiking, shopping and dining in tiny downtown Hanalei.

On the north side of Kuhio Highway, the main drag, you find Ching Young Village, once the site of a lone general store, now



It doesn't get much better than sharing paddle time with your best buddy on a sunny morning in Hanalei Bay on Kauai's North Shore.

Cattle egrets, like this one, perching on the outskirts of Hanalei, are all over rural Kauai.



"Soul Surfer" (2011).

I understand the locals who lament that tourists and the rich have taken over the North Shore. But I don't think those people are fully in charge yet. If they were, the restaurant service would be faster. Parking on the sand would be banned at Black Pot Beach.

The one-lane bridges on the highway would be widened. And that would be a shame.

It's the weather that's really in charge here: the big waves, the heavy rains on the erosion-carved mountains, the hurricanes and tsunamis that arrive now and then to ravage the coast.

In fact, it was an iffy decision, toward the end of our visit, to ignore the low-hanging, rain-heavy clouds, wrestle a rented kayak into the water at the river's mouth and paddle toward the taro fields of the Hanalei Valley.

But it paid off. I got just far enough that the sound of traffic faded and the foliage thickened along the shore. I heard birds squawking and water murmuring. And I saw Kauai's green mountains, right side up and upside down, reflected on the smooth surfaces of the river.

Bad timing? Says who?

an '80s mini-mall that includes a grocery store, tattoo parlor, restaurants and ample kitsch. On the south side stands Hanalei Center, a snazzy collection of restaurants and shops in a set of buildings that 80 years ago held the town elementary school. On both sides of the highway and at the beach, you'll see stickers, posters and other reminders of two homegrown heroes.

One is Andy Irons, who won three world surfing championships in the 2000s but died in 2010 at 32 when his heart failed after "mixed drug ingestion."

The other is surfer Bethany Hamilton, who was 13 in 2003 when a tiger shark at Tunnels Beach tore off her left arm. Hamilton recovered, returned to surfing and inspired the movie

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Lykke Li
I Never Learn (Atlantic)

Sweden's Lykke Li delivers a full fusion of deep, soul-searching lyrics on "I Never Learn," her third studio album and an artistic zenith for this talented singer.

"Love Me Like I'm Not Made of Stone" is a minimalist guitar-and-vocals-only track. Li's voice strains in all the right places and pleads for love in others, meshing nicely into a raw display of emotion. The title track carries more production sheen, but retains an authentic feel as Li sings about falling too deeply in love.

There are no weak songs here, and the best comes on "No Rest for the Wicked." Ghostly piano stabs echo until an avalanche of percussion falls over it all. It's a poignant song about fighting to keep a relationship alive as it tears apart, territory that sounds personal when Li sings it.

In the end, it is love that is at stake on "I Never Learn." Lykke Li adroitly captures the struggle that one must endure to keep love at the risk of losing it forever.

— Ron Harris
The Associated Press



Doug Paisley
Strong Feelings (No Quarter)

Canadian singer-songwriter Doug Paisley writes songs that sound lived-in and comfortable from the first listen. It's not simple to make a record that comes as natural and unforced as Paisley's third album.

Paisley sings in a casual baritone, sometimes stretching into his high register. He's played in bluegrass and country bands, but "Strong Feelings" has more in common with classic singer-songwriters such as Gordon Lightfoot or Guy Clark. There are tasteful contributions from stellar guests Garth Hudson (organ), Colin Stetson (saxophone) and Mary Margaret O'Hara (vocals). But the true stars are Paisley's writing and singing on this understated gem.

— Steve Kline
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Not bad! But not 'Thriller,' either.

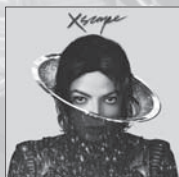
When it comes to finishing the unfinished music of a dead perfectionist, one couldn't hope to do much better than executive producer L.A. Reid has done with "Xscape," the second posthumous album from Michael Jackson.

The recording surfaces eight previously unreleased songs from the Jackson vault, presenting them in their original and spiffy "contemporized" forms.

Contemporized?

That's the word Reid is using to describe the work that he's hired a squad of top-flight producers—including Timbaland, Rodney Jerkins, Stargate and others—to execute, composing new music around a grab bag of vocal tracks that Jackson recorded between 1983 and 1999.

The album's highlight comes right away with "Love Never Felt So Good," a lush disco tune originally co-written with Paul Anka. "All right, that's fine," Jackson utters at the end of the song, signaling his approval to a studio engineer back in '83 after a strong take. It's a cool peek behind the curtain that Jackson persistently kept closed, but was it included here to signal his consent



Michael Jackson
Xscape (Epic)

from the other side?

According to Billboard, Timbaland claims to have actually heard the spirit of Jackson give him the thumbs up during the making of "Xscape"—namely while he was replacing the breezy-synth lines of "Loving You" with a more 2014-friendly bump of bass.

Sharing that little story only highlights the stickiness of this entire endeavor: As a singer whose voice changed our collective ideas of what pop music should feel like, Jackson was as precise as he was powerful, capable of responding to the instruments surrounding him with incredible nuance.

Obviously, we're not hearing that on the reconstructed

half of "Xscape." The producers are responding to him, and often with pleasing results. But that means most of the new tracks on "Xscape" are Timbaland songs featuring Michael Jackson, not the other way around.

While none of the eight original versions would have a chance at cracking contemporary radio, they're a treat.

"A Place With No Name" synopses the stormy guitar chords of America's 1972 hit "A Horse With No Name" with spanking snare drums from the new jack swing era while "Blue Gangsta" is a fascinating mess, with Jackson exuding his trademark tender-toughness alongside brittle drum machines and a wheezing accordion.

As for the original "Love Never Felt So Good," it's spare and spellbinding—just Jackson's voice, a piano, some snapping fingers and two clapping hands.

Unfortunately, "Xscape" closes out with a third version of the song, featuring a chirpy Justin Timberlake and his huffy, puffy beatboxing. Listen until the end and you might expect to hear Jackson say, "All right, that's enough."

— Chris Richards
The Washington Post



Ray LaMontagne
Supernova (RCA)

Famous for his smooth, smoky voice and softly soulful, earnest craft as a songwriter, Ray LaMontagne has rearranged his brand of Americana with sensual, reverbing psychedelia and the production help of Black Keys guitarist Dan Auerbach. The result: LaMontagne suddenly sounds as if he's loose and having weird fun. When he sings about wanting his girl on this album's title track, he seems, at last, to really want her—and not just to talk while sipping coffee.

Auerbach's production should get much of the credit for the independence and sexual power of this recording. He brings to "Supernova" the same treatment he brought to roots-based artists such as Valerie June. (Lord knows what he'll do to Lana Del Rey's next album.) On "Supernova," we hear a track such as "Drive-In Movies," with lyrics of youthful motives and desires, plus a jaunty, Brit-pop melody—swathed in dense organ sounds and oozing background voices. "Lavender" conjures more scents and taste sensations than the herb itself. "Pick Up a Gun," an acoustic cut about an emotional dustup, has more key shifts than a Yes album. "Supernova" is LaMontagne's most complex statement yet about life, love, and music itself.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Lily Allen
Sheezus (Warner Bros.)

What "Sheezus" proves is that Lily Allen is still growing and evolving as a musician, and even with a few lesser tracks here and there, "Sheezus" is so far her best-yet mix of personal stories and overarching cultural commentary. Make no mistake: she isn't the first pop star to point out the foibles of the industry that has helped her become a success, but if "Sheezus" proves anything to us, it's that she just might be the best at it.

— Evan Sawdey
PopMatters.com

WEEKEND: MUSIC



The Black Keys
Turn Blue (Nonesuch)

The Black Keys, from left:
Patrick Carney and Dan Auerbach.
DANNY CLINCH/Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Past their prime?

The Black Keys' 'Turn Blue' is low-key but also low energy

Words of self-knowledge from Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys: "We made our mark when we were in our prime."

That lyric, delivered in a parched drawl on the blues-rock duo's new album, almost certainly refers to Auerbach's recent divorce, which seems to haunt "Turn Blue" like a ghost. But the singer-guitarist might as well be describing the trajectory of the group he shares with drummer Patrick Carney.

After sweating it out for years as a kind of underground knockoff of the White Stripes, the Black Keys finally broke into the mainstream with 2010's "Brothers" and its 2011 follow-up, "El Camino." Both records sold more than 1 million copies, a huge number for any rock band doing business this decade, while the latter earned a Grammy nomination (alongside Jack White's "Blunderbuss") for album of the year.

The commercial success coincided with what felt like a creative apex, as "Brothers" and "El Camino" had sharper tunes and deeper grooves than the Black Keys' workmanlike early records. When Auerbach and Carney filled Staples Center in Los Angeles for two nights in 2012—just like Madonna and Justin Bieber—you could feel the excited energy swirling around two musicians making their mark, as Auerbach puts it, in their prime.

The hard truth about the top, though, is that getting there often leaves only one direction to move. And a pronounced feeling of descent pervades "Turn Blue," the Black Keys' eighth studio disc and the fourth they've

made with producer Danger Mouse, who's credited as a co-writer on all 11 songs here.

At least part of the comedown appears to be by design, an expression of Auerbach's grim thoughts regarding the breakup of his marriage. "Why you always wanna love the ones who hurt you? Then break down when they go and desert you?" he asks in "Year in Review." "It's so hard to let 'em go." Later, over the gloomy acoustic shuffle of "Bullet in the Brain," he sings of hearts beginning to rust and a diamond turning to dust.

These lovelorn vibes are presented with paradoxical care.

"In Time" has a ringing piano lick and woozy gospel-soul backing vocals, while Auerbach sings "Waiting on Words" in a delicate falsetto that's streaked with shades of Smokey Robinson. And with its funky bass line and whirling synth riff, the spacey "10 Lovers" could be a song by Danger Mouse's psych-pop band Broken Bells.

Yet given the well-imagined production work Auerbach's been doing lately outside the Black Keys—on strong records by Dr. John, Bombino and Lana Del Rey, among others—there's no reason to suspect that the singer wasn't sculpting the band's richly detailed sound here. Indeed, the album's seven-minute opener, "Weight of Love," summons a folk-noir atmosphere nearly as heady as that in Del Rey's great new single, "West Coast."

What works to provide an air of mystery with an artist like Lana Del Rey, though, feels dangerously enervating on a Black Keys album, as those hazy guitars and slow-mo

tempos drain away the crisp forward momentum heard on "Brothers" and especially "El Camino." Performing the album's lead single, "Fever," last weekend on "Saturday Night Live," the band seemed even more listless, a candy-colored muscle car reduced to lazy Sunday-drive mode.

By all accounts a believer in rock's wide emotional bandwidth, Auerbach is, of course, entitled to explore lower-key energies. But heartbreak isn't necessarily low-key, is it? Throughout "Turn Blue" the singer uses words with dramatic power—"In the dead of the night, I start to lose control," he claims in the title track—yet sets them against arrangements that feel fussed-over, with all intensity smoothed out.

Compare a song like "In Our Prime" to "Lazaretto," the freaky first sampling from White's upcoming album—which promises to detail White's own unhappy divorce—and the former puts up no fight; it hardly convinces you that Auerbach ever lost control.

"Turn Blue" does offer one short blast of the Black Keys' old excitement, right at the end of the album, in "Gotta Get Away," a loveably trashy glam jam about outrunning one's troubles. "I went from San Berdo to Kal-amazoo just to get away from you," Auerbach sings merrily.

It's a strangely upbeat closer to this disappointing album, but also a slyly hopeful one, as though the band were already planning how to reach another peak.

—Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

'MLB 14: The Show' makes solid contact

By LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

The first edition of a sports game on a new console is like the first game in a new stadium: The place looks great, but management might not yet have worked out the kinks at the ticket lines or the concession stands.

"MLB 14: The Show" is no exception. In the latest upgrade of the stellar baseball franchise, the players look more realistic than ever, and their individualized animations bring them ever closer to the athletes you see at the ballpark.

Sony's San Diego Studio has also refurbished every major league stadium, from Boston's venerable Fenway Park to Miami's flamboyant 2-year-old Marlins Park.

The most notable flaws are some painfully long loading times,

especially when starting a new game or switching between different play modes. And there are a few graphical stutters that destroy the generally well-crafted illusion of watching a TV broadcast.

Otherwise, most of the new features in the PS4 version of "MLB 14" are the same as those introduced a few months ago on the PS3 edition. The most radical revision is "Quick Counts," in which each at-bat begins a few pitches in. It's a bit of a gamble, since your batter can just as likely come to the plate with a 3-0 edge or a 0-2 disadvantage. Purists will grumble, but it's useful if you have just 30 minutes or so to squeeze in a game.

The highlight, as with this series, is the absorbing "Road to the Show." You create a player from scratch, but this year you can model your guy on a real-life major leaguer. My dop-

pelganger, the scrappy second baseman Louie Kesten, is based on young Washington Nationals infielder Anthony Rendon. Unfortunately, I'm still struggling to make an impression on the Philadelphia Phillies' AA farm team, the Reading Fightin' Phils.

Sony has revamped some of the player training and performance evaluation in RTTS, but the essence remains. You see only your character's at-bats and fielding chances, so the focus is less on winning the game than on making sure he contributes positively. A game takes only five minutes, so you could whip through an entire season in a day.

"MLB 14" takes that single-player focus and brings it to other game modes as well. A new "Player Lock" feature lets you pick any big leaguer and play multiple seasons as just that guy. Is fiery Los Angeles Dodgers phenom Yasiel Puig a flash in the pan or a legend in the making? Player Lock lets

you determine his future.

If you're looking for a really brief game, you should check out the new "Community Challenges." Each challenge plops you into a pivotal game situation — say, coming to bat with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 9th. You can also create your own challenges and present them to other online players.

"MLB 14" doesn't radically reinvent the series for the PS4, and if you've already bought the PS3 version, you aren't missing much if you don't upgrade. It still has so much packed into it that it should satisfy anyone, from casual players looking for a quick contest to fantasy geeks who want to assemble entire leagues from scratch. The series in general remains one of the finest sports titles on the market, and an essential purchase for baseball fans.

Platform: PlayStation 4
Online: baseballisbetter.com

"MLB 14: The Show" for the PlayStation 4 features improved physics and player animations that make the game more lifelike than ever.

Courtesy of Sony

'World Cup Brazil': Gameplay needs improvement

By MATTHEW KATO
Game Informer Magazine

The World Cup is highly anticipated, not only for the chance to see the best soccer players in the world face off cloaked in national pride, but because the tournament happens only once every four years. This "FIFA" title lacks the World Cup's scarcity. Including "FIFA 15," coming this fall, EA is giving fans three "FIFA" titles in one year. "World Cup Brazil" has its advantages, but it's stuck in an awkward position. It's not the best representation of all that the tournament encompasses, and in some ways it's not even better than "FIFA 14."

Then again, "World Cup Brazil" is not a dud. The game contains more features than any of the previous titles centered

on the tournament, and even includes enhancements on "FIFA 14's" gameplay. Headers are improved both by defenders' increased ability to win the ball in the



half the story since those gameplay areas still need work. Headers now have possible outcomes, but it still seems like the outcome is determined before the ball

is kicked into the air. Player movement is smoother, but there are times when players seem to lack awareness of the ball or teammates' location. The latter is particularly frustrating when you're trying to clear the ball from in front of your goal and teammates are clustered too close.

If the gameplay is a zero-sum when compared to "FIFA 14," the title's World Cup-related accoutrements are welcome, but not significant. Training between friendlies and matches in the Road to the World Cup mode gives you strategic options as a manager. Do you use the pre-tournament matches and training sessions to build up younger players so they can crack the World Cup roster later on, or do you simply maintain the form and morale of already-established players?

Despite elevating the importance of training, like previous "World Cup" titles, this game doesn't do enough to convey

the entire experience. The skill games are hardly interesting; no drama exists in the roster selection process or with your players, and there's not much weight conveyed to the qualification process. "FIFA 14's" headline-driven career HUD does a better job of livening up the day-to-day experience, and while there are added presentation elements like a radio show and new cutscenes of fans, they are tidbits that are drops in the bucket. In terms of new World Cup capturing modes, Road to Rio de Janeiro takes on the series' popular Seasons format, but it's not a destination feature.

You've probably heard of World Cup Fever. What is it? You know it when you've got it, and this game doesn't raise the temperature much.

Platforms: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360
Online: easports.com/2014-fifa-world-cup

Many staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Her”: Emotional loner Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix) falls in love with his newly purchased operating system, who goes by the name Samantha (voiced by Scarlett Johansson). It's not the person who provides the computer voice, it's the operating system that steals his heart.

Call it close encounters of the intellectual kind.

Director Spike Jonze, who also penned the script, takes a painfully serious look at what actually defines love. It's often depicted in films — and experienced in real life — as a physical, emotional and intellectual connection between two people. They might have different philosophies, social backgrounds or any of a million other variances, but they are pulled together by a force that is as intangible as the wind.

The world and characters in “Her” come with a certain degree of optimism created by the loss of sanity. It's the perfect environment for this original look at the meaning of falling in love.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Joaquin Phoenix stars in “Her,” a futuristic exploration of a man's relationship with his computer. The movie is now out on DVD.

“Orange Is the New Black”: The original series from Netflix is based on the memoirs of Piper Kerman. The 13-episode comedy/drama follows a young woman (Taylor Schilling) whose seemingly perfect life is turned upside down when she must serve time in a federal women's prison — a place where orange jumpsuits are always in fashion.

The cast also includes Jason Biggs, Laura Prepon, Kate Mulgrew, Michelle Hurst and Danielle Brooks.

From the writing to standout performances by Schilling and Prepon, this production is entertainment in the first degree.

Also new on DVD:

“Afterlife: Season One”: Andrew Lincoln plays a farsee skeptic who meets a real psychic.

“Stalingrad”: Drama set during one of the most important battles of World War II.

“Looney Tunes Spotlight Collection Volume 8”: Includes 30 theatrical animated shorts.

“I, Frankenstein”: Frankenstein's monster gets caught in a battle between immortal clans.

“Scooby Doo! 13 Spooky Tales: Field of Screams”: Scooby's gang faces scary adventures.

“Crocodile Dundee” and “Crocodile Dundee II”: Both films starring Paul Hogan are on one DVD.

“That Awkward Moment”: Best friends must decide where the relationship is going.

“Theatreland”: Sir Patrick Stewart and Sir Ian McKellen provide a look behind the scenes of a production of “Waiting for Godot.”

“Wolverine Weapon X: Tomorrow Dies Today”: Wolverine's life becomes complicated when cybernetic robots from the future embark on a superhero killing spree.

“Evilspeak”: Blu-ray release of the story of a bullied military academy student who discovers a hidden evil.

“The Godfather Part III”: Third part of the trilogy is available on Blu-ray.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

From ‘Girl’ to grownup roles

‘Veep’ star Anna Chlumsky shows versatility in latest projects

By COURTNEY CROWDER
Chicago Tribune

Actress Anna Chlumsky, fidgeting in her chair with the nervous excitement of a girl readying to open a soda can she's just finished shaking. Her gaze and attention focused sharply on the woman seated across from her, Sheila Nix, chief of staff to Dr. Jill Biden. Nix had just been asked — in front of a University of Chicago auditorium filled with political science students and TV fans — what people in Washington think of HBO's political comedy, “Veep.” On the show, Chlumsky plays Amy Brookheimer, the fictional vice president's chief of staff.

As a real-life counterpart to Brookheimer, Nix can speak with authority on whether the show is doing the capital justice.

“People really like ‘Veep,’” Nix said. “There's always a lot of discussion about it... There are really funny (Washington) pieces that I think the show gets just right.”

“Yay,” Chlumsky squealed with glee. Chlumsky has plenty to be delighted with these days.

“Veep” has been renewed for a fourth season, and the depiction of the work-obsessed, ever-willing Brookheimer is even stronger and more nuanced this season than her Emmy-nominated performance last season.

Equally impressive is her emotional turn as Miriam Lass, a torture survivor on NBC's ultracreepy “Hannibal.” A recent episode heavily featured Chlumsky's dramatic chops when she had a psychotic break in the presence of the person she believed was her tormentor.

“It was amazing to see her come on (‘Hannibal’) have a very specific performance and see something so diametrically opposed” on “Veep,” said Bryan Fuller, creator of “Hannibal.” “She's just as genuine and honest and believable in both worlds.”

Chlumsky also recently wrapped filming “The End of the Tour,” an upcoming Jesse Eisenberg-helmed flick. And with an almost 1-year-old daughter, Penelope, she's relishing new motherhood.

Think of this moment as Chlumsky's second act.

The Broadway, Ill., native's first came relatively early at age 10, when she starred in 1991's “My Girl.” The film broke countless hearts with its poignant take on the trials and tribulations of growing up.



LACEY TERRELL/Courtesy of HBO

Anna Chlumsky, right, plays Amy Brookheimer on HBO's political comedy, “Veep.”

Before her appearance last month at U. of C., her alma mater, Chlumsky, 33, loquaciously described her fondness for the craft of acting.

“The best acting happens when you are completely unselfconscious,” she said. “To me, the idea that you can put all of your attention on a text or on a partner or on the present moment, that is just a really noble form of storytelling. I am still falling in love with it to this degree.”

For “My Girl” to succeed, the casting department had to find a lead actress who could hit the movie's one-liners and linger in its heart-breaking moments, said Alan Berger, a casting assistant on the film.

One night, after weeks of watching hundreds of taped auditions, Berger stumbled upon the plucky every-girl he'd been looking for.

“All of a sudden, I see Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly, Sandra Bullock, that kind of top-drawer, genuine article stuff,” he said, “and right then and there I knew without question that here is the girl.”

Chlumsky played Vada Sultenfuss, the death-obsessed daughter of a funeral parlor owner. Even at 10, Chlumsky deftly balanced the role's dramatic and comedic elements.

“It was a blast,” Chlumsky said. “I wasn't aware that I was making college money. I wasn't aware that people would see

it. I was just kind of going for the ride.” Armando Iannucci created “Veep” after his movie “In the Loop,” a comedy about how the British and U.S. governments engineer a fictional war, became a film circuit standout.

The 2009 movie marked Chlumsky's return to the big screen, and when it came to casting “Veep,” Iannucci didn't see anyone else for Brookheimer.

“She's got this strength to be very real and natural and yet there is a great comic delivery as well,” Iannucci said.

“She knows where to take the joke.”



NUCCIO DI NUZZO, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

“The best acting happens when you are completely unselfconscious. To me, the idea that you can put all of your attention on a text or on a partner or on the present moment, that is just a really noble form of storytelling.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

By MELISSA DRIBBEN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Wondering about the best shoes to wear for spring running? Neutral? Minimalist? Stability? Motion control? Cushioned heel? Confused? Of course you are. Well, sports medicine specialists have good news. Stop worrying about fallen arches, overpronation, and putting your feet on a Paleolithic regimen.

The latest thinking about how to choose the best running shoe is to let comfort be your guide. Since the 1970s, running shoes have evolved from puny slabs of rubber sewn to canvas shells into engineering feats rivaling 3-D-printed surveillance drones.

Far beyond the latest Nike Flyknit Lunar 2 are plans for running shoes made of computer-generated molecules that will link to living organisms and conform to your foot's ever-changing needs.

In the somewhat-less-distant future are Google Bluetooth-enabled shoes that talk to you and tell you how your run is going. For now, runners have a hard enough time picking from hundreds of mute, inorganic options.

"Historically, the push has always been to look at foot pronation," said Bryan Heiderscheit, a professor in the department of biomedical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Runners were told to wear shoes that would correct for the foot's tendency to roll inward or outward, on the theory that this would correct biomechanical flaws and prevent injuries to the knees and lower back.

"But the best studies that have been done in the last 10 years," said Heiderscheit, "have not substantiated that claim."

In 2010, the American Journal of Sports Medicine published a study of 1,400 Marine Corps recruits. Half the group was given shoes based on a careful evaluation of the shape of their feet. The control group's shoes were chosen randomly.

"Assigning shoes based on

Put your feet first

Prioritize comfort when choosing an athletic shoe



EVANS CAGLAGE, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Wearing the right shoe can help improve performance and prevent injury, regardless of the sport or activity.

the shape of the plantar foot surface," the authors concluded, "had little influence on injuries." When Heiderscheit tries to

explain this to members of the running-shoe industry, he gets "pushback." Not surprising, he said, consid-

ering that the \$20 billion athletic-shoe market sustains itself on innovation. Most companies release new models twice a year,

offering features designed to improve performance and prevent injury.

The idea that almost any shoe is fine if it's comfortable is also apt to meet resistance from runners for whom theory has become dogma. Believers in barefoot running or minimalist shoes, for instance, are unlikely to be convinced.

Both are fine, said Heiderscheit, as long as recent converts do not make the switch too abruptly.

Speaking from personal experience, Heiderscheit said, it is easy to get injured if you decide to toss your cushiony sneakers and immediately start racking up miles in a pair of minimalist shoes.

It can take months to adapt, he said. He recommends exercises to strengthen muscles in the calf and foot and using the minimalist shoes for short, easy runs at first. "You should feel so comfortable in a shoe that you could sleep in them," said Jon Woo, a sports medicine specialist at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Experts say that just as everyone's feet are unique, so are their running styles. "There is no absolute biomechanical ideal," Heiderscheit said.

One of the world's fastest marathoners, Peshach Jeptoo, has a knock-kneed gait that has carried her through 26.2 miles in a blazing two hours, 20 minutes, and 14 seconds.

Still, Heiderscheit said, there are "flaws" to avoid.

"You don't want to bounce too much. You don't want to overstride. And the one thing we absolutely don't want people to do is a hard heel strike — truly coming down on your heel with your foot pointed high in air."

Jeptoo, for the record, runs in Nike Zoom Streak 3s, a lightweight, breathable shoe with some support and cushioning. Online reviews of the shoe range from "I got huge blisters" to "Perfect!"

If this proves anything, experts said, it is that the one true authority on which shoes are best is the runner who wears them.

Work out at work: discreet exercises you can do at your desk

By WINA STURGEON
Adventure Sports Weekly

If you always end up too tired to do your training program early in the morning or late in the evening, don't let that all hard-earned conditioning wither away. Wake your body up and get it moving — at work!

No one will stare if you quietly do some exercises. If anybody notices, it can actually earn you some respect. Consider doing a desk pushup: it's hardly noticeable beyond the low and open walls of a typical office cubicle.

A desk pushup is where you back your feet away, hold your body straight, lower your torso to the surface of a desk or table, push it back up, then lower it to repeat. It might look like a bunny exercise, but it's more like King Kong. After about 25 reps, you'll definitely feel it in your shoulders and upper arms.

Target the arms more thoroughly with a chair push-up. Sit in a chair with arm rests, and use them to push your body upward by extending your arms from flexed

to straight. Use only your arms and shoulders, not your feet or legs. You'll probably have to rest after just ten reps.

Buy a weight plate and stash it under your desk. To do a back extension that will strengthen your entire spine, and it will also give you those nicely curved columns of muscle on each side of your lower backbone. Remember to bend from the hips, not from the waist. If you bend from the waist, you're curving and straining your backbone, which can injure your spine. Form is everything in back extensions.

A good set of ankle weights can be used to work your legs without anyone noticing. To exercise the hamstrings (back of thigh) and the calves, sit and push the feet forward, then drag them back as far as possible without lifting your feet from the floor. To work the front of the thighs and make bodacious quadriceps, repeatedly



WINA STURGEON, WINIMAGES/MCT

Salt Lake City cinematographer A.J. Beer grabs a quick shoulder workout at work.

lifts the knees as high as possible 20 times while seated.

This will also work the hip flexors, which will protect athletic people against those painful and lingering groin pulls. It's a good exercise to do if you're a golfer.

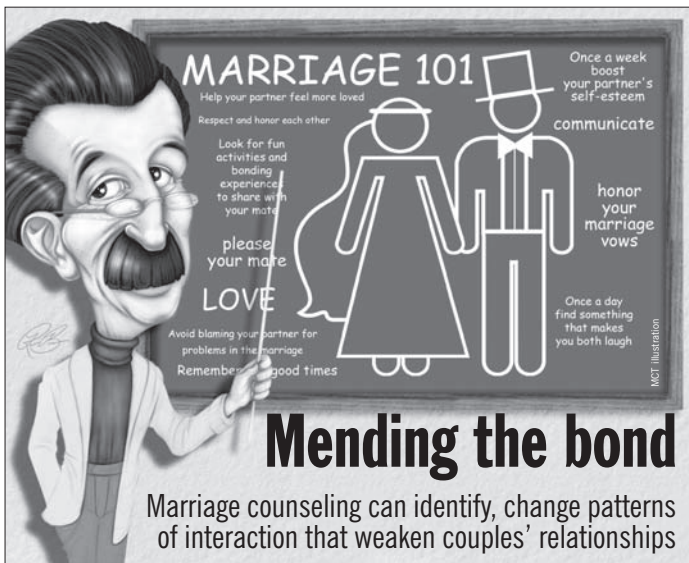
If you work in an environment where you can sit on an exercise ball instead of a

chair, do so. These sit-upon balls are also called "balance balls," for good reason. To keep both your body and the ball stable, you have to keep yourself balanced. The required stabilization is done by your core muscles. You won't even be aware of the light, but constant, core workout you must maintain while using a ball for a chair.

Get an oblique workout by lying face down with your chest on the ball and your hands on the floor in front of you. Use your hands to "walk" forward until the ball is under your knees and lower legs. Then bring your knees toward your hands, rolling the ball forward until you're in a tightly crouched position. Extend from the crouch by rolling the ball backwards until it's again under your chest. Repeat at least five times.

The best thing about an office workout is that you don't have to do the entire routine in one session, as you would at the gym. You can do one set of an exercise every so often throughout the workday, do several different exercises during your lunch break, or break up your routine in any way you choose.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Mending the bond

Marriage counseling can identify, change patterns of interaction that weaken couples' relationships

By PAMELA KNUDSON
Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

It's the rare marriage that doesn't go through rough patches now and then. Sometimes outside help from a professional therapist is needed to keep a shaky marriage from collapsing under the accumulated weight of unresolved problems.

But how do couples know at what point those problems have become serious enough to call for intervention by a trained counselor?

"Relationships can be so hard," said Bethany Sutton, licensed marriage and family therapist with The Village Family Service Center in Grand Forks, N.D. "The reality is that marriage is difficult; you're always working on it."

Conflict and disagreements are to be expected, she said.

Every relationship is unique, she said. "What are normal levels of conflict for one couple are totally not normal for another."

A plaque on her desk reads: "The first 50 years of marriage are the hardest." It's a visual clue that couples have difficult work to do.

"You hear a lot about pre-marital counseling and pre-divorce counseling," Sutton said. "But there are so many years in between."

"What I find, a lot, is that people come (for counseling) too late," she said. "For years and years, the problems have built up."

She urges people to seek therapy to deal with issues that are "bugging" them and get help "to open up" and have those conversations you and your partner haven't wanted to have.

Marriage counseling is not so different from other measures people take to maintain health and keep their lives running smoothly, she said. "We go to the dentist to get our teeth cleaned. We take the car in for preventive care. Why would we not seek therapy that could prevent major problems later on?"

Taking that first step to get coun-

Counseling websites

Therapistlocator.net: Lists more than 15,000 marriage and family therapists who are members of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

marriagefriendlytherapists.com: If you wish to see a therapist who prioritizes commitment as the first option, you can search a registry of therapists who have agreed to a values statement.

prepare-enrich.com: A leading relationship inventory and skill-building program.

seling is "scary, terrifying and anxiety-provoking," she said. The root of the fear is that "you feel vulnerable — there's still a stigma (attached) — seeking mental-health services," even though it has decreased, she said.

"People think (getting counseling) means that they're 'failing,' that it reflects poorly on them as a wife, as a couple, as parents. But, for me, it's not a weakness, it's a strength."

Usually, there's a "last straw" that prompts realization that the relationship is in trouble, she said.

"Most couples do come in with a story. There's been a recent incident, a significant fight or a moment of awareness, and both people are like 'wow, this is pretty serious.'"

"Many of them say, 'we should have come years ago.' Most say they could feel the (problem) building."

The issues these people want to improve most are communication skills and conflict resolution, Sutton said. "Most know they have these issues," but they haven't really talked about their underlying feelings — feelings they might be afraid to share because of fear it will start a fight or the other person will "shut down," she said.

Instead of avoiding the conversations about feelings, Sutton urges a deeper level of honesty — even if it brings about emotional pain.

"We're going to move toward it before it's going to get better," she said.

"Emotionally focused couples therapy (is used) to track the cycle of interaction" that occurs between partners, she said. The approach targets the system, not the symptoms, of the interaction.

"We're looking at the function of the system, and how it has worked in the past."

It is aimed at understanding how the dynamics in the relationship are perpetuating patterns that are driving them apart.

Oftentimes, "each partner comes in with a whole list of what the other person is doing wrong," Sutton said. "I will listen, but I ask, 'what's your role in this?'"

"The 'blame game' gets you nowhere."

Couples sometimes fall into habits of interaction, she said.

"You're doing this, and the other does that, and it becomes a circle," she said. "We have each person pull out their role."

A common pattern among couples is "pursue/withdraw," she said, whereby "one person comes across as critical and the other withdraws to avoid conflict. 'When the 'withdrawer' withdraws, the 'pursuer' gets more angry, and the withdrawer withdraws even more."

But "if just one of you does something different, the pattern changes," she said.

As Sutton facilitates conversations that a couple has avoided having, she "can see how they're interacting and help them change it." She tries to teach them "how have these conversations differently than they have in the past," she said.

Idealized images of marriage — the media and culture portray — or the idea that marriage is easy — "are so dangerous because a perfect marriage doesn't exist," she said.

SPOUSE CALLS

To err is human, to panic is futile

We're all entitled to a little breakdown once in a while. Mine started when I lost my ID card. Well, no, it didn't exactly begin there. The comedy of errors began the day my ID card expired, though I didn't realize it was expired until five days later. That happened to be a Friday afternoon, and my husband was leaving for TDY on Monday at oh dark thirty.

Since we don't live on base, it was mostly an inconvenience. I couldn't go to the commissary that week, and I had to reschedule a doctor's appointment since I couldn't be treated without a valid ID.

After my husband returned, he filled out the necessary paperwork so I could renew my ID card on my schedule. The next day I took the magic paper to the pass and ID office, thinking all my troubles were over.

But they weren't. Besides the paperwork, I needed two forms of government identification. Of course, my expired ID was no longer valid. All I had with me was my driver's license. Why didn't I think of that?

"If your husband was here, you wouldn't need two forms of ID," the young airman said brightly. Yeah, thanks.

I knew my husband couldn't take time off that day. Also, the bright young airman informed me they had no open appointments the next day and would be closed the day after that.

The following week, I'd committed to help set up and serve a dorm dinner and later attend a scholarship awards ceremony at the club with my husband.

For the dorm dinner, I figured I could get a visitor's pass to get on base. That afternoon, with two big pans of baked beans and my teenage son in tow to help with setup, I headed for the base.

Before I got to the base, however, I discovered both my expired ID and my driver's license were missing. I turned my purse and the car upside down to no avail.

Mentally retracing my steps, I thought I'd probably left them behind at pass and ID the day before.

After trying unsuccessfully to contact the team setting up the dorm dinner, I returned home with enough baked beans to feed an army, or a lot of armies.

"Are you still going to go with me tonight?" my husband asked when he got home. He was giving the invocation for the awards ceremony at the club, where we had intended to meet up after the dorm dinner.

He planned to leave the ceremony after the prayer: I had planned to stay for the program. However, now we couldn't go in two cars. I couldn't drive myself to the base, being persona non grata to both the United States Air Force and the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles.

I thought it would be too awkward for both of us to leave early, so I stayed home. My husband left and came back an hour or so later.

"It turned out they had me sitting up front," he said. "So I stayed."

He sat beside the wing commander and his wife.

"I told them you were planning to come, but you had a crisis."

"A crisis? You told them I had a crisis?"

"Why not? You're human, aren't you?"

"Well, yes, but I don't want to be the person with a crisis, and you said you were leaving early. Anyway, this is a crisis."

So I did what any adult who is definitely not having a crisis does: I took an Advil and went to bed early, hoping life would look better in the morning.

It did. Losing all my vital identification and defaulting on my commitments was painful, but the only casualty was my pride, and what loss is that? Everyone makes mistakes.

Two days later, I went back to pass and ID. I took all the right paperwork — and my husband, just in case. My driver's license was there, and now I have a new ID card.

Identity crisis over. I know exactly who I am. Human.

I also know exactly what we're having for dinner: baked beans.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

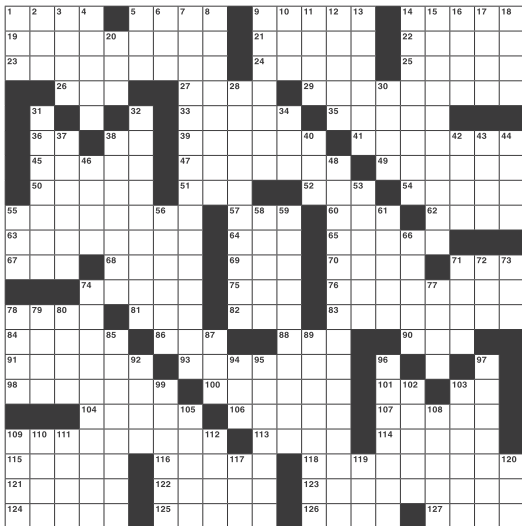
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

FOR MOTHER

BY PETER A. COLLINS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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- 98 Literally, "lion dog"
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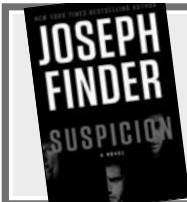
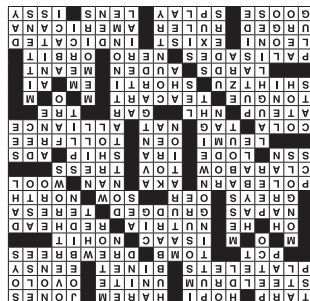
- 71 Education secretary Duncan
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GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Single dad Danny Goodman finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores and accepts a loan that brings the DEA into his life and leads to an impossible choice: indictment for accepting drug money or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment.

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Dynamic Dolly

Dolly Parton performed on the "Today" show on Tuesday. She released her first album in three years, "Blue Smoke," in the U.S. this week. It features duets with Willie Nelson and Kenny Rogers and covers of Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice" and Bon Jovi's "Lay Your Hands on Me." She is also pop star Miley Cyrus' godmother.

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Parton talks album, Miley Cyrus and remaining true to yourself

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

As Miley Cyrus' godmother, Dolly Parton has spent a lot of time answering reporters' questions about the Hannah Montana actress turned pop ingenue as Parton promotes her new album, "Blue Smoke," in the U.S. out this week.

Though she says she worries about Cyrus as if she were her own child, she supports the sometimes shocking decisions her goddaughter has made as she moved from child star to a confident — and complicated — young woman.

"I'll never say anything bad about Miley 'cause I know she's smart," Parton said. "And I know she's talented. And I know she's had to go to drastic measures to try to make her point: 'Leave me alone. I am not Hannah Montana anymore. I want to grow up.'"

The 68-year-old Country Music Hall of Fame member compared Cyrus critics to those who chided her when she first came on the scene — a buxom teen

'[T]his is my look. I mean, I like a lot of makeup. I like a lot of hair. I like flashy clothes. I like to show it off. But that's just who I am.'

with a confident sense of self and style that drew frowns and tsks-tsks from those who expected her to be demure and chaste.

"But I never let that stop me from being the business girl that I was," Parton said. "I knew my songs were good even if I had been ugly as sin. I felt like I could sing, even if I had been ugly as sin. So I thought, 'Well, I would have probably chose to look this way even if I had been a waitress.' I mean, this is my look. I mean, I like a lot

of makeup. I like a lot of hair. I like flashy clothes. I like to show it off. But that's just who I am."

Though she never changed her image, Parton managed to get folks to pay attention to her music and skills as an entertainer and businesswoman, and not so much to her wardrobe and makeup.

"Blue Smoke" is her first album in three years. She wrote many of the songs on the album, sings duets with Willie Nelson and Kenny Rogers and takes a trip into unlikely territory on covers of Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice" and Bon Jovi's "Lay Your Hands on Me," which she gives a Sunday-morning flavor: She recently announced hundreds of millions of dollars in business investments and will tour the world this year.

"And I am not finished yet," Parton said. "I still have a lot of other business things I want to do. I just think it's the love of it. I just really try to keep my creative hat on. I just love to write, I love to think. I love the business end of things. I love to work. Energy begets energy. And dreams beget dreams. So I just keep on keeping on."

Sitcom to end after 12 seasons

From wire reports

"Two and a Half Men," once the highest-rated TV comedy in the U.S., is ending its run with a 12th and final season.

The show, which starred Charlie Sheen until he was replaced by Ashton Kutcher in 2005, will retain its slot on Thursdays at 9 p.m. EDT, the network said Wednesday in a statement.

Series creator Chuck Lorre "will be creating a season-long event to send it off,"

said Nina Tassler, head of entertainment for the network.

Tassler said she does not know whether bringing Sheen's character back from the dead will be part of the sendoff.

Though "Two and a Half Men," which also stars Jon Cryer, continued to appear regularly among the top 25 programs in the ratings after the transition to Kutcher, it had been surpassed by CBS hits like "The Big Bang Theory."

Woman: Bieber stole phone

Los Angeles police detectives are investigating allegations from a woman who claims Justin Bieber took her cell phone at a miniature golf course.

"He has been accused of attempted robbery," Officer Rosario Herrera told the Los Angeles Times, adding detectives have not talked to the pop star yet.

The woman said Bieber allegedly grabbed the phone because he thought she was taking pictures of him at the San Fernando Valley course, the police official said. Bieber was not accused of keeping the phone. The woman told officers the incident took place Monday around 10:30 p.m. in the Los Angeles Police Department's Devonshire Division.

CW adds 2 new shows

The CW television network is bringing the comic book hero "The Flash" onto its fantasy-laden schedule, along with a soap opera about a virgin who is artificially inseminated by accident.

The series about a superhero who moves about with lightning speed will air Tuesday nights, one of only two new series the CW is introducing in the fall.

The other, "Jane the Virgin," is a telenovela adaptation about a young woman obsessed with telenovelas whose life takes on some theatrical complications. Through a doctor's mistake, she's inseminated with a specimen from a playboy donor.

CW President Mark Pedowitz also said Thursday he's trying again to make a "Supernatural" spinoff.

Other news

■ The hotel where someone recorded security video appearing to show Beyoncé's sister, Solange Knowles, attacking Jay Z inside an elevator said Wednesday it had identified and fired the person. The Standard Hotel said the person had been terminated for "breaching the security policies of the hotel and recording the confidential CCTV video."

■ The Oprah Winfrey Network says it plans to produce a documentary series following the life of Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted by an NFL team. The series will take an up-close look at the man recently drafted by the St. Louis Rams in a groundbreaking moment in professional sports. Cameras will follow the former University of Missouri football player as he works to earn a spot on the Rams while under a media microscope.

■ Casey Kasem was located in Washington state Thursday, three days after a Los Angeles judge expressed concerns about the ailing radio host's whereabouts and safety.

■ Emma Watson, 24, star of the Harry Potter series of films, is graduating from Brown University this month with a degree in English literature.

The stewards of the James Bond franchise will use their talent for intrigue to produce a movie based on reporter Glenn Greenwald's book about Edward Snowden's leak of top-secret U.S. surveillance documents. Sony Pictures said Wednesday that EON Productions' Michael Wilson and Barbara Broccoli will produce the film based on "No Place to Hide" by Edward Snowden, the NSA and the U.S. Surveillance State.

■ A "Breaking Bad" spinoff on Walter White's shady attorney, "Better Call Saul," will be filmed in Albuquerque, the New Mexico Film Office announced Wednesday. In a statement, officials said that the TV series will be shot at Albuquerque Studios — which was home to the six-year run of "Breaking Bad."

From wire reports



CBS/AP

Ashton Kutcher, left, and Jon Cryer will say farewell to their characters when "Two and a Half Men" comes to an end.

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OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting, as attempted by the press or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

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OPINION

‘Unpublishing’ news stories is no longer unthinkable but it’s mostly unacceptable

By ERNIE GATES

Stars and Stripes ombudsman

Readers ask me fairly often how to find a Stars and Stripes article from their time in uniform — a B-17 raid on Germany, a photograph from Korea, a mention of their unit in the Mekong Delta, or something more recent. I ordinarily send those readers to the Heritage Newspaper Archive (<http://starsandstripes.newspaperarchive.com>), where for a reasonable fee they can search a database of more than 1 million Stripes pages from 1948 to 1999. Searches earlier than 1948 are much trickier, usually requiring eye-straining hours with microfilm.

Whether the search is simple or painstaking, the Stripes archive is a pretty remarkable historical record.

But sometimes the questions are not about what people want to find in the archive, but what they want to erase — less about nostalgia and more about remorse. In the interest of job-hunting, bank loans, security clearances or just plain embarrassment, people would like to “correct” the record of some of their moments in the spotlight.

In effect, they’d like to “unpublish” unflattering stories.

In the age of paper and ink, the idea would be preposterous. No one would — or could — clip out all the old stories from all the old newspapers. That part’s still true — but the digital archive is another thing. The fact that the digital record can be altered has made “unpublishing” a meaningful question in journalism ethics.

With the expansion of digital publishing, editors and publishers have increasingly gotten requests to “erase” material from their online archive. For the most part, and with good cause, they’ve refused. The underlying principle is that accurate, published stories are part of a historical record, and to tamper with that record risks the trust and credibility at the heart of their relationship with readers.

Of course, there are exceptions, and groups such as the Associated Press Managing Editors and others have suggested guidelines and best practices for making those decisions.

The leaders of the Stars and Stripes newsroom consulted those sources and others to formulate their own approach to

“unpublishing.” As ombudsman, I’ve made suggestions and pointed to resources such as the APME report. Stripes will publish the result soon, and I’ll be interested to hear reactions from readers.

Meanwhile, here’s a quick take from my look at the draft and my talks with Editorial Director Terry Leonard and Web Manager Joe Gromelski.

As it should, and in keeping with the judgment of most newsrooms, the Stripes approach will lean hard against “unpublishing” a story that was accurate when it was published. If later events make the original story a materially incomplete account and unfair, then the solution will be to verify the new information and update the story or annotate the archive, rather than eliminate the original.

For example, a story about a commander being relieved for “lack of confidence in his ability to lead” after allegations of misconduct might require an update if a subsequent investigation results in his exoneration. In the normal course of reporting, such an update ought to be a standard follow-up story, prompted by a periodic “pop-up” alert in the reporter’s calendar. But that doesn’t always happen, and press releases about exonerations are scarcer than press releases about commanders being relieved. The story that allegations were made and the commander was relieved would still be accurate, but fairness would require that the record include the outcome.

In short: Fix it, don’t erase it.

There may be cases, but they will and ought to be rare, when the original story is altered in the archive. For instance, Leonard recalled a story identifying two Marines who were arrested after the war, but only one was eventually charged in a slow-moving judicial system. The identity of the Marine who was never charged was later removed from the story in the digital archive — and the fact that it was altered was noted on the story. That note is an important attempt to be transparent to readers, to communicate that such “amendments” to stories are rare and not done secretly.

Though Stripes’ approach will intentionally make it hard to “unpublish,” these will be judgment calls, as with most ethical choices. So it’s important that the decision not be left to one person, partly for a check and balance, but also because hearing mul-

tiple perspectives tends to yield fairer results. Stripes’ process will begin with the Web staff investigating and verifying new information, then making a recommendation to senior editors, who will make a decision. Appeals from that decision would go to the publisher. In some cases, legal advice would be required.

That process isn’t described yet in the draft, but it ought to be, as a matter of transparency.

Of course, amending or annotating the digital archive at Stripes or any other original publication doesn’t entirely correct the record in the broader digital world. Stories are routinely republished and re-archived by third parties, excerpted in other accounts, cached in older searches and on other websites and so on. That original version is still out there somewhere.

Or is it? What if the searching algorithm looks the other way?

Just this week, the European Union’s top court ruled that people have a “right to be forgotten” — meaning that search engines, such as Google, which lost that court case, would be required to alter their search parameters on request so certain personal information is excluded. The court explicitly does not expect the information to be eradicated from its original source of publication, but the decision has editors and publishers worried that more such censorship is around the corner.

I expect that publicity about the EU’s Google case will spur the number of “unpublishing” requests at most newspapers, including Stripes. Having done the research and had the internal discussions necessary to develop and put its own guidelines in writing — and soon share them with readers — will make Stripes better prepared to meet those requests openly.

That doesn’t mean everybody’s going to be happy with the decisions. But it does mean that Stripes is ready to balance competing values and make responsible judgments as it honors its commitment to accuracy and the historical record, respects and preserves the public’s right to know, and treats the people it writes about fairly.

Got a question or suggestion for the ombudsman on what appears, or should appear, in Stars and Stripes? Send an email to ombudsman@stripes.com, or phone 202.761-0587 in the States. For several links associated with this column, please go to Ernie Gates’ blog. It can be found at stripes.com/blogs.

Millions of reasons to keep Starbucks ‘dry’

By GREG WILLIAMS

Recently Starbucks announced it would expand its offerings and start selling alcoholic drinks in the evening in thousands of its stores. The move was touted by chief executive Howard Schultz as a strategy for the company to grow profits by increasing the average sale per customer.

Schultz’s shareholders no doubt exchanged a mental fist-bump. But the celebratory should be short-lived, because they realize that they are in danger of turning away a key coffee-consuming segment: more than 23 million Americans living in recovery from substance-use disorders.

Every day, people in recovery meet up in Starbucks cafes to support one another, to talk to their 12-step sponsors and, most of all, to be welcomed in one of the few lively, popular, alcohol-free gathering places in their community.

Starbucks should pay special attention to them.

One of the most useful concepts in business is the Pareto principle, or what is commonly known as the 80/20 rule. This widely adopted marketing principle — that 20 percent of input causes 80 percent of the result — suggests that 80 percent of all coffee consumed at Starbucks is derived from just 20 percent of its customer base.

And who might be part of that base? The October 2008 issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* found that 88.5 percent of those studied who were in recovery from alcoholism drank coffee. Thirty-three percent of those coffee drinkers drank more than four cups a day.

That means millions of recovering people drink coffee, and a third of them drink a lot of it.

If you closed your eyes and pictured a 12-step meeting room, you’d probably picture a coffee urn and plastic foam cups stacked

next to it. And you’d be right. After a typical meeting, you’d see groups of people leaving together to head for the local Starbucks.

In the short run, Schultz may be adding a new set of customers who bring in a \$20-plus sale once a week. But if the evening culture of the cafes turns into a hybrid bar scene, Starbucks will be at serious risk of forcing out a devoted set of high-value, existing customers. Many of them may already spend more than \$20 a day on alcohol-free beverages.

If Starbucks executives studied this market demographic, perhaps they would think twice about this move. They don’t have to be driven by the spirit of supporting people’s journey of recovery from addiction. They could do it just for their shareholders.

The writer has been in recovery from alcohol and drug use for more than 12 years. He wrote and produced the documentary “The Anonymous People,” about long-term recovery. This commentary first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Dispense with solar politics The (Paris, Tenn.) Post-Intelligencer

President Barack Obama is announcing a bundle of plans for boosting solar power and promoting energy efficiency.

That may be about all he can do on his own authority without support from Congress, but it's still half a loaf.

One of the steps he was touting was completion of solar panel installation on the White House roof. Well, whoopee.

Jimmy Carter put solar panels on the roof of the executive residence, but Ronald Reagan had them removed. That made the panels a political football rather than a modest efficiency tool.

The panels will be more effective as a symbol of presidential policy than as a real contribution to the nation's energy efficiency.

America needs a broader, more inclusive energy policy, but it's never going to get one as long as political leaders hold to hard-line policy.

"The president can't claim an 'all of the above' strategy while he's blocking the Keystone pipeline, slow-rolling the approval of new energy exploration and proposing job-killing regulations that will destroy the American coal industry," said a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, the ultra-Republican from Ohio.

But the president's partisan rhetoric, and the man has a point. Solar panels do not a policy make. Power-saving green steps alone can't meet our energy needs.

The energy efficiency guys and the we-need-more-power bunch need to bury the hatchet. The issue is too important to the national well-being to be a focus for political games.

Benghazi smoking gun?

Marietta (Ga.) Daily Journal

President Barack Obama spent the past year and a half twisting that questions about the Benghazi attack would just go away. You can bet that former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting Hillary Clinton is wishing the same thing, except more so.

But that isn't likely to happen thanks to damning information that has now come to light. And while our friends on the left here in Georgia and elsewhere love to try and spin Benghazi as a Fox News fantasy, The public has the New York Times to thank for the latest revelations about how minimizing the damage to Obama's 2012 re-election campaign — not national security — was the top priority in the White House in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2012, tragedy that left Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans dead at the hands of Libyan terrorists.

The attack on the embassy there came against a backdrop of Team Obama's repeated assertions that the war on terrorism was over and that we had won.

The attacks in Libya ran counter to that, so Obama and those around him quickly came up with an alternative version: that the supposedly spontaneous demonstrations and the attacks that followed were inspired by an amateurish, obscure Internet video, even though the evidence and common sense ran counter to that.

The Times reported late last month that Obama's deputy national security adviser, Benjamin J. Rhodes, emailed U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice on Sept. 14, 2012, just



A man walks in the rubble where an attack killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, on Sept. 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. Congressional Republicans are pressing another investigation into the attack.

before she made a round of high-profile appearances on Sunday morning news-talk shows that day.

Rhodes urged Rice to "underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy" and that she should "reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges."

It's the "smoking gun" that proves the administration misled the American public about the Benghazi incident right from the very start.

Climate scare-mongering Boston Herald

The Obama administration is trying to scare us with totally unverifiable projections of a disastrous global warming. We trust that most people are not going to fall for this outrageous scare-mongering.

The bathyloosed third National Climate Assessment, released last Wednesday by several agencies, alleges first that the world has warmed over the last century and second that it's going to get much worse.

This is supposed to convince us of the wisdom of President Barack Obama's plans to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief gas said to be warming the planet.

It has indeed warmed slightly (by at most 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 100 years. Saying so ignores an unexplained cooling from about 1940 into the 1970s. It warmed from the 1970s to 1998; there has been no warming since even as carbon dioxide concentrations rose.

Predictions of floods here and heat waves there and falling sky somewhere else are produced by already failed computer models. None can reproduce changes in temperature observed in the past. Relying on such failed prophets is folly.

Unsurprised critics note that the concentrations of water vapor in the troposphere are that supposed to amplify warming simply aren't there.

The assessment rambles about heat and rainfall and other unpleasantness, but pays no attention to the fact that there is no trend in the incidence of tornadoes, or the fact that hurricanes making landfall are at a record low, or the fact that even more emission cuts than Obama wants would lower the temperature in 2100 by one-seventh of a degree.

As Yogi Berra said, it's tough to make predictions, especially about the future. The country needs a devil's advocate, with adequate funds for research independent of the army of alarmists who have built careers on dubious dogma.

Afghanistan perspective Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

In matters of war and international politics, a sense of perspective is a useful thing. That's especially so in a place like Afghanistan.

Like many of his peers from Fort Bragg, N.C., Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Colt has that perspective. He's in Afghanistan as deputy commander of the 18th Airborne Corps, which is overseeing the end of America's longest war. It's his second deployment there. His first, a decade ago, was like a trip to a different country.

When Colt commanded the 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment from summer 2002 until summer 2004, he recalls the capital city of Kabul as dark and lifeless at night. Ten years later, it's filled with light and activity. The city is growing and thriving.

So are the country's National Security Forces, which didn't exist in 2004. Now 350,000 strong, the Afghan forces "don't need our prompting anymore," Colt told Observer reporter Drew Brooks.

That's good, because as the U.S. and its NATO allies prepare to largely withdraw, the world needs to know that the nation won't revert to the dark place it was. We need some assurance Afghanistan won't slip back into the grip of fundamentalists like the Taliban, who turned the nation into a leading exporter of trained terrorists.

Even as military leaders prepare for the end of the international military coalition's mission in Afghanistan, other Fort Bragg units are scattered about the country, showing the Taliban and other insurgents that they're still ready for battle. The forays into the countryside are useful and reassuring to Afghan soldiers...

The final decision about long-term American presence in Afghanistan will be made by President Barack Obama, and so far, he's holding his cards close. It's unclear whether there will be a few thousand American troops left in the country next year, or 10,000, or none. Whatever the number, it's got to be enough to prevent Afghanistan from slipping back into the hands of fundamentalists who embrace terrorism. Anything less is unacceptable.

Values worth fighting for Kansas City (Mo.) Star

The tragic plight of the missing girls of Chibok, Nigeria, has triggered heartfelt and hand-wringing around the world. And it has opened vexing examinations of a nation in chaos and an international commu-

nity unsure of how best to respond.

The fact that the girls' kidnappers — the fanatic, anti-Western Islamists known as Boko Haram — have been terrorizing their nation's impoverished northeastern region for years has prompted appropriate questions about the abilities and priorities of the Nigerian government. Boys have been slaughtered. Schools and villages have burned. Boko Haram has led a vicious campaign to douse the spirit of Christians and Muslims alike, and to expunge the idea that enlightened education leads to better lives.

Prominent people are speaking out and challenging others to raise awareness and concern. The U.S. and other nations are supplying advisers to help gather intelligence and to aid a rescue of the kidnapped teenagers, saying them, it is hoped, from the marriage enslavement market and other crimes against humanity.

Still, it's abundantly clear that there are limits to what Americans and other outsiders can do. Boko Haram issued signals that it is willing to negotiate, perhaps trading the captive girls for imprisoned brothers in arms. The Nigerian government rejected that deal. Proceedings from here will be delicate and unpredictable.

The Chibok kidnapping crisis is indeed horrendous and awakening. It comes at a time of increasing violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and South Sudan...

Yet, the Nigeria story seems especially alarming on a human scale. All those girls, taking a test at school when they were abducted, represent an incalculable future.

To understand the potential of young women like them — girls who aspire to freedom and betterment amid rigid, medieval settings — one need look no further than Kansas City. The Star's Joe Robertson on Sunday reported the inspiring story of Cynthia Odu, who left Nigeria as an infant with her parents and now, at 18, having graduated from Kansas City's Kalamazoo Academy, is bound for college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

These two stories, one of horror and another of triumph, remind us that certain values, like universal education, are worth fighting for.

Keep the U-2 flying The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

The U-2 "Dragon Lady" spy plane, a product of the famed Lockheed "Skunk Works," first flew in 1955. It was one of the most successful aircraft ever built, and it is still flying.

The U-2's designated successor, the SR-71 Blackbird, was retired in 1988. Now the same fate threatens the 32 remaining U-2s even though they continue to provide valuable intelligence, especially from remote and secretive areas like North Korea, where they peer down from the relatively safe altitude of 70,000 feet.

Unfortunately, the U-2 is best remembered for an incident when that altitude proved not to be, ending hopes that it would mark the start of a period of "peaceful coexistence" between the U.S. and the USSR. Relations between the two countries eventually reverted to a chilly standoff while the U-2 continued peering into the doings of our foes, likely eyes and those whose mysterious activities — among them, the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba — aroused our curiosity.

Although the military has \$598 million in the 2015 budget to keep the U-2 flying, the Air Force is proposing to begin a phaseout of the U-2 in favor of unmanned drones like the Global Hawk. While drones have more than proved their worth, the risk is that a nation substitute for on-the-spot human judgment.

Fort Knox

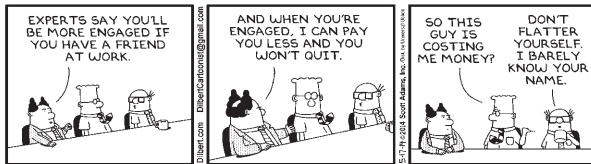


Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

Frazz



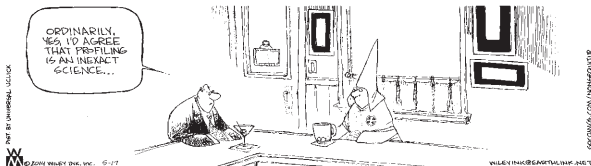
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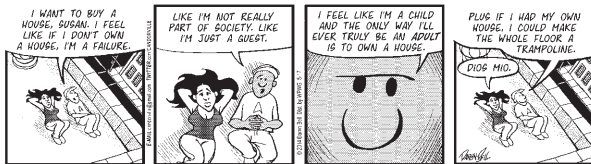
Pearls Before Swine



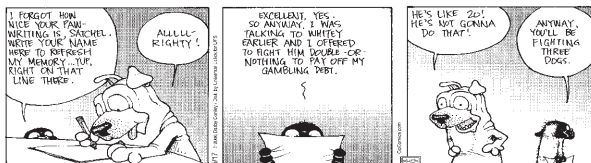
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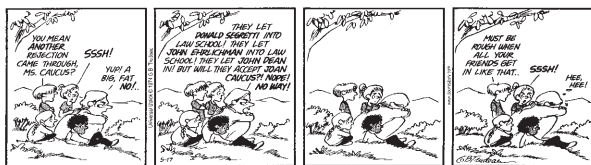
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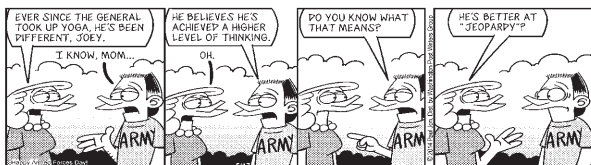
Get Fuzzy



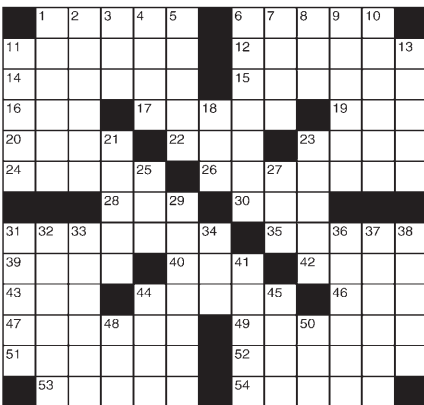
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

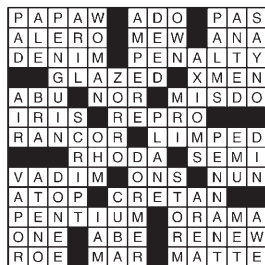
- Treasure carrier
- Kind of fever
- Grads
- Internet incarnation
- Two-way
- Buccaneer
- Wager
- "Trivial Pursuit" edition
- Back talk
- Friend of Dorothy
- Scale member
- Prima donna
- Capital of County Clare
- Scratched the surface?
- More, to Manuela
- Heavy weight
- Belflower family member
- Cornerstone abbr.
- Frosts
- "Tasty!"
- Gaelic
- Longtime record label
- up (chimed in)
- Reveal, in verse
- Light brown fur
- Elton John collaborator Bernie
- Malice
- Realism
- A long time

54 "The final frontier"

DOWN

- Provide with information
- "Leverage" actor Timothy
- Flightless bird
- Unseen problem
- "Scrabble" supply
- Juliet's family name
- Hertz rival
- Prohibit
- Type inclined to stress
- Indigene
- Saunter
- Change the cushions
- Affirmative action?
- French textile city
- Saint-Saens' "— Macabre"
- Bando of baseball
- Adversary
- Apes
- Describes
- Fill
- Paul or George
- Pump up the volume
- Cancer or Capricorn
- Have high hopes
- Geoffrey of fashion
- Apportions (out)
- Harbor structure
- Moist
- Actor Stephen
- "— lazy river ..."

Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-17

CRYPTOQUIP

FSZL MSZ AQKMSZQ XLI
GEGMZQ MSQKF TDQKXQEKTG
DXQMEZG MKHZMSZQ, IK
MSZO SXWZ X GEABELH
QZWBQO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS BLOKE IS A WORDPLAY PRO, BUT HE REALLY NEEDS TO TAKE A SHOWER. HE'S A PUNGENT PUN GENT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R



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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

■ Available ■ Not Available



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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Kadena, Kinnick armed for a D-I rematch

Far East softball tournaments

At Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan
May 15-21
Format — Pool-play games on Monday Double-elimination games Tuesday and Wednesday. Division I and II championship game, 4 p.m.; second games at 6 p.m., if necessary.

Monday's games
Division I
Pool A
Kinnick vs. Kadena, 8 a.m.
Guam vs. Seoul American, 9:30 a.m.
Seoul American vs. Kadena, 11 a.m.
Kinnick vs. Guam, 12:30 p.m.
Kadena vs. Seoul American, 2 p.m.
Pool B
Kubasaki vs. American School in Japan, 8 a.m.
Yokota vs. Kubasaki, noon
ASU vs. Yokota, 4 p.m.

Division II
Pool A
E.J. King vs. Daegu, 8 a.m.
Matthew C. Perry vs. Osan, 10 a.m.
Osan vs. King, noon
Daegu vs. Perry, 2 p.m.
Pool B
Zama vs. Humphreys, 10 a.m.
Humphreys vs. Edgren, 2 p.m.
Zama vs. Edgren, 4 p.m.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Shortstop Macalah Danielson is one of six underclassmen starters and part of Kadena's powerful heart of the order. She hit .636 with 20 RBIs in 10 games this season.

Last year's finalists strong again; Daegu favored to defend in D-II

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Everything seemed to be going Kadena's way. It wasn't the largest of leads, but right-hander Peyton Lettkeman was matching Kinnick counterpart Kelly Osterbrink strike for strike and the Panthers held a slim 1-0 edge heading into the final inning.

Lightning struck in the form of two runs, including the game-winning hit by Tenley Getschman, for the Red Devils as they stunned the reigning Far East Division I softball champion Panthers 2-1 in last season's title game.

It's not something easily forgotten. But Kadena third-year coach Kelli Wilson says she's emphasizing with her players that they can only take care of what's in front of them and not worry about the past.

"Everybody knows about it," she said. "We remember it, but we don't dwell on it. We can't go back to it. We're just trying to focus on us, our team on the field this year and this year alone."

The Panthers start the path toward trying to wrest the title from Kinnick, which would be the program's third in five years, starting at Naval Air Facility Atsugi. The Division II tournament runs concurrently; Daegu won it last year.

The 2014 version of the Panthers that Wilson is putting on the field is a young one. Of her nine starters, six are freshmen and sophomores, but each is very familiar with the game, having played on traveling teams in the States and for the Lady Ambassadors club program on Okinawa.

Leading the charge is perhaps the most formidable heart of the batting order the Panthers have ever had: freshman Macalah Danielson (.636 batting average, 20 RBIs in 10 games) and sophomores Bailey Prince (.545, 25) and Asia Abdul (.516, 27).

"We're as ready as we'll ever be," Wil-



TYLER PRINCE/Special to Stars and Stripes

Kadena sophomore right-hander Bailey Prince, shown pitching against Kubasaki. Not only is she an ace on the mound, she is part of arguably the most formidable heart of the batting order in school history. Prince batted .545 and knocked in 25 runs this season.

son said. "We're taking it one day at a time, we're excited to be there, we want to be in

the final. We plan to do what we need to do."

Osterbrink sat part of the season with a high ankle sprain, but the Red Devils repeated their DODDS Japan tournament title and, after suffering their only loss of the season to American School in Japan, rebounded to rout them in a twin bill last week.

The senior right-hander will be Kinnick's main pitching option, and the Red Devils are "solid" with Getschman behind the plate and Smithers sisters Beverly — last year's tournament MVP — and Jane at the keystone positions.

"If they play at the top of their game, if they play as well as they can play, if Osterbrink is throwing like she can, they will be difficult to beat," Yokota coach Ty Gaume said, adding of the Smithers: "Best middle infield we've faced all season."

While Seoul American won the DODDS Korea district, coach Julian Harden and the Falcons play solely Division II programs all season. He says he doubts that he can match Kadena's or Kinnick's firepower, especially on the mound, where left-hander Julia Ring is the main option. "We don't have the pitchers" that those two schools have, Harden said. "I don't have that luxury. That's going to be our nemesis."

While the Panthers and Red Devils are expected to contend for the D-I title, Daegu appears to be a favorite to repeat its D-II title, with Zama, Edgren and last year's runner-up E.J. King giving chase; each has good pitching options, though Zama's are young.

"Daegu has a lot of people who played last year," Harden said of a Warriors team that relies mainly on former All-Far East pitcher Christina Henry. "Their infield is solid and that's why they did so well last year. Their chances are pretty good."

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-EUROPE



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Patch's Amber Garcia, right, gets a shot on goal past Ramstein's Kylie Weaver on April 18. Ramstein won the game, a rematch of last year's Division I final, 4-3.

Familiar girls favorites loom atop Division I, II

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The 2014 DODDS-Europe girls soccer tournament features the latest installment(s) of a classic European feud, a dynasty looking to add another jewel to its crown and a champion denied a chance to directly defend its title. The action starts Monday at sites around the Kaiserslautern Military Community, culminating in three Thursday championship games at Kaiserslautern High School. Here's a look ahead:

Division I: The Ramstein Royals beat the defending champion Patch Panthers on April 18 in a rematch of last year's European championship game. But in the context of this rivalry, that win was far from a conclusive triumph.

In 2012, the Royals beat the Panthers 1-0 to win the European championship; a year later, the Panthers reversed that result with a 1-0 win for the 2013 title. The fact that Ramstein won the teams' regular-season meeting 4-3 this spring doesn't necessarily mean anything; the Royals also won last year's regular-season meeting 2-1 before their runner-up finish.

In short, a game between Ramstein and Patch defies prediction. Except that it will likely happen.

The Royals and Panthers are the class of Division I. Ramstein finished at a perfect 6-0, while Patch lost only to Ramstein. As if to drive the point home, neither the Royals nor Panthers yielded a goal to any opponent but each other all season.

That doesn't mean the rest of the field will be conceding. Lakenheath has a shot after a 5-0-1 regular season, and 2013 semifinalist Kaiserslautern is dangerous despite a marginal 3-1-2 campaign. Wiesbaden finished without a win in four Division I games, while Vilscek went winless on the spring.

The six teams will play round-robin all the way through Thursday morning, with the top two finishers advancing to Thursday afternoon's title game.

Division II: No team at any level of DODDS-Europe girls soccer boasts the combination of proven talent, up-and-coming stars and championship experience that four-time defending Division II champion Naples possesses. The challenge for the Wildcats, as it is each spring, is to prove

that all over again.

The Wildcats' regular season amounted to pure dominance. Naples scored 39 goals while yielding just nine across six victories, all of which came by at least three goals.

DODDS-Europe's most populated division is packed with teams that, under the right circumstances, could force a sudden end to top-seeded Naples' dynasty.

Start with the Wildcats' familiar in-country rivals. The third-seeded Vicenza Cougars, who played victim to Naples' fourth consecutive title win last spring, gave Naples perhaps the toughest test of its season in a 3-0 loss March 15. Aviano finished its season 3-2-1, including a tie with Vicenza, though it will enter the tournament looking up from the eighth seed.

In Germany, Baumholder showed a knack for playing up to the level of more-talented competition, forcing ties with Division I Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden and earning the tournament's seventh seed in the process. But the Bucs managed just two wins on the year, and took losses to two other Division II contenders in Hohenfels and Black Forest Academy.

The Wildcats' stiffest challenge might come from the distant north.

Second-seeded SHAPE turned in a strong 5-0-1 season, with only a tie with Division I Lakenheath preventing the Spartans from a perfect record.

Alconbury and Rota, who faced off for last year's Division III championship, will try to find success in the deeper and tougher Division II field.

Division III: The graduation of Alconbury, last year's Division III champion, and Rota, last year's runner-up, leaves a vacuum atop the small-school power rankings. Brussels and Sigonella are perhaps the two most accomplished programs still playing at the Division III level.

The Brigands produced a strong 3-3 season despite playing just one Division III opponent. The Jaguars emerged with wins over D-II schools American Overseas School of Rome and Marymount.

Another Italian program gets the top seed, though. Florence beat the Jaguars 5-3 on March 22 on the way to a 4-2 season that also included a win over Aviano.

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Defending champs face daunting road to final

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The 2014 DODDS-Europe boys soccer tournament features a wounded champion reduced to a humble bottom seed, an allegedly wounded champion still playing at an elite level, and a rolling small-school hopeful poised to avenge the loss it suffered last spring. The games begin Monday at sites around the Kaiserslautern Military Community; three championships will be decided Thursday at Kaiserslautern High School. Here's a look ahead:

Division I: In a way, the large-school boys soccer championship scene will be infused with fresh blood. On the other hand, that fresh blood is likely to come from the two schools that are dominating every team sport this spring.

Defending champion International School of Brussels appears ill-equipped for a run at a repeat after losing the bulk of its talent base over the summer, and will enter this tournament as the bottom seed of the seven-team field. Last year's runner-up, Heidelberg, will certainly not be heard from this spring; the school closed a year ago. That wide-open championship picture leaves plenty of room for multi-sport juggernauts Patch and Ramstein to elbow into frame. The second-seeded Panthers and top-seeded Royals finished their seasons without a loss, and played to a scoreless standstill when they shared a pitch April 18 in Ramstein.

That's not the only close game the two teams survived this spring. Wiesbaden gave each team trouble, though both the Panthers and Royals escaped with a win, and came out of a dangerous third seed.

Off the mainland, meanwhile, fourth-seeded Lakenheath produced an undefeated season of its own, though its schedule included just one Division I game, a 2-1 win over ISB on May 3. The 5-0-1 Lancers faltered only in a 1-1 tie with Division II SHAPE, they also earned three of their five wins by single goals.

Kaiserslautern and Vilscek round out the Division I field. Both the Raiders and Falcons will look to shake off middling regular-season records and launch a surprise run deep into the postseason.

Division II: Marymount was supposed to be in the same predicament as ISB, left to defend its championship with a major dent in its talent base. But while some of the prominent names might have changed, the Lions' talent base appears all but intact.

The tournament top seed, chasing its fourth consecutive Division II championship, went undefeated on the year, with its famously explosive offense producing 26 goals over the course of six games.

That looks good on the surface. But a closer inspection reveals that this version of the Lions might be more vulnerable than in years past.

Such evidence piled up over the final week of the regular season, which saw the Lions play American Overseas School of Rome to a 2-2 draw and scrape out a 1-0 win over Naples.

Those two teams happen to be among the biggest threats to Marymount's burgeoning dynasty.

AOSR fell to Marymount in last year's championship game and furthered the intra-city rivalry with the above-mentioned game. But the Falcons' overall body of work is less encouraging, including an early-season 4-1 loss to Naples and a late-season 2-1 loss to Aviano, relegating the school to a No. 7 seed. Naples fared better, with only a tie with Aviano and the



ADAM L. MATHES/Stars and Stripes

Lakenheath's Kyler Zachary heads the ball away from the Lakenheath goal during a May 3 game against ISB.

loss to Marymount marring its record; the Wildcats will come in as the bracket's third seed.

Though 2-2-2 overall, Aviano's strong efforts against AOSR and Naples make it a dark-horse contender.

Of course, there's no guarantee that the eventual champion will emerge from DODDS-Europe's soccer hotbed in Italy.

Second-seeded AFNORTH went 5-1 on the season, losing its only game to Division I Lakenheath. Impressive wins over defending Division I champion ISB and fellow Division II contender SHAPE strengthen the Lions' case. Germany's best chances at getting into the title mix lie with Hohenfels, Bitburg and Black Forest Academy.

Division III: The small-school ranks feature a seven-team bracket, a mix of familiar programs that contend in multiple team sports year-round and mysterious entries from DODDS-Europe's most remote locales.

Defending champion Brussels struggled to a 1-5 regular-season record, but its performance in those games indicates a higher ceiling. The Brigands took tough one-goal losses to upper-division foes Lakenheath and SHAPE.

Top-seeded Menwith Hill, which lost to Brussels for the title last spring, ended the regular season by beating Brussels 4-2, in the process earning a second straight win after opening its season with three losses in a row. Third seed Sigonella flashed its potential in a 1-1 tie with Aviano and a 6-4 loss to AOSR.

Incrifit, Schweinfurt, Ankara and Lajes fill out the bracket.

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Monday's DODDS-Europe schedule

At Reichenbach, Germany
10 Ansbach vs. 11 Rota; 6 Black Forest Academy vs. 15 Alconbury; 7 AOSR vs. 14 Baumholder; 9 Bitburg vs. 12 Vicenza; 8 Hohenfels vs. 13 Balmrain; 1 Marymount vs. 11 Rota; 4 SHAPE vs. 14 Baumholder; 5 Aviano vs. 15 Alconbury; 2 AFNORTH vs. 17 Vicenza; 3 Naples vs. 13 Balmrain; 1 Marymount vs. 10 Ansbach; 4 SHAPE vs. 7 AOSR; 5 Aviano vs. 6 Black Forest Academy; 2 AFNORTH vs. 9 Bitburg; 3 Naples vs. 8 Hohenfels

At Landeshut, Germany
5 Hohenfels vs. 14 AOSR; 4 Black Forest Academy vs. 13 Balmrain; 8 Aviano vs. 11 Bitburg; 9 Alconbury vs. 10 Rota; 6 AFNORTH vs. 7 Baumholder; 1 Naples vs. 12 Ansbach; 2 SHAPE vs. 14 AOSR; 3 Vicenza vs. 13 Balmrain; 5 Hohenfels vs. 8 Aviano; 4 Black Forest Academy vs. 9 Alconbury; 1 Naples vs. 7 Baumholder; 6 AFNORTH vs. 12 Ansbach; 2 SHAPE vs. 11 Bitburg; 3 Vicenza vs. 10 Rota

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Kubasaki set to defend Division I crown

Coaches work to maximize points knowing missing out on any could determine titles

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Hours of online study by coaches can be just as important as hard work by athletes on the track to a team's Far East meet title hopes.

Jon Fick and his assistant, Paul Campbell, of defending Far East Division I Kubasaki have done plenty of that. Times and distances of all Pacific teams are no secret, thanks to coaches reporting meets to sites such as Stripes.com and Athletic.net.

Coaches gauge which teams have athletes who rival theirs. Position runners, throwers and jumpers in events that stand to maximize a team's points. Add up the projected number of points.

"And the magic number seems to be about 200," Campbell said of the projected figure needed to win the combined school banner.

Kubasaki won it and the boys team title last year and will attempt to repeat that feat starting Monday at Yokota High School's Bonk Field.

The 200 is predicated on "everybody running exactly how they're supposed to," Campbell said. "We know who our competitors are, and we've been training accordingly to get us ready."

This year's Dragons are swimming in sprinters: Rahman Farnell, Jarrett Mitchell, Kaelyn Francis and Kourtney Mitchell.

Kadena is strong in distance runners — Ana Hernandez, Andrew Kilkenny and rookies Wren Renquist and Javier Major — and features a strong thrower in Jazmyn Sharper.

Kinnick's girls lineup is poised for a sweep of the sprints, distance and hurdles events, finishing 1-2 in some events. Far East meet manager Bruce Carrick, said. Only Francis and Zion Christian Academy's Amora Wood stand in the way in those events, he added.

Kinnick's Jabari Johnson "has



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki's Jarrett Mitchell, Kadena's Devae Freeman, Kubasaki's Rahman Farnell and Kadena's Barry Mitchell, from left, will challenge for Far East High School Track and Field Meet honors in the sprints.

a chance for a triple" in the 100, 200 and 400 "unless [Farnell] pulls it off," said Carrick, who has a weekly front-row seat as Kanto Plain meets manager. Johnson was hand-timed in the 200 in 21.0 at last week's Kanto finals. That would have been a Pacific record if not for an illegal wind.

Another speedster is DaiQuan Wilson of first-time entrant Humphreys, DODDS Korea meets manager and Blackhawks coach Mitch Moellendick said; he was hand-timed in the 100 in 10.88 and the 200 in 22.1 in the DODDS Korea finals last Saturday.

Two Kanto runners stand to challenge Kadena's contingent in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200. Yokota sophomore record-holder Daniel Galvin, who set Pacific marks in the first two, and Kinnick senior Carydalyz Fontanez. A sweep by each is possible, Carrick said.

Field events seem to be "evenly distributed" among many teams, Carrick said, though Sharper is a potential discuss and shot put stand-out, American School In Japan's David Hernandez in the jumps and Yokota freshman Christian Sonnenberg in the discus. Seoul American's David Davidson and Cameron Harris will figure into it, Moellendick said.

Moellendick said Kubasaki and



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena's Jazmyn Sharper is one of the favorites in the shot put and discus competitions.

Kadena will be "a step ahead" of the rest of the Division I field, though he notes Yokota's boys and Kinnick's girls strengths and ASI's overall balance. "It will be close," he said.

Defending Division II champion Zion Christian has Wood in hurdles and sprints, middle-distance runner Jay Cummings and fleet long-distance specialist Rejay Maruo.

Thrower Niyah Lewis and distance man Jarell Hibler head-line potential winners for Zama. Edgren's lone qualifier, Shawn Robinson, is a proven hurdler.

Far East Track and field

Meet schedule

At Bonk Field, Yokota High School, Yokota Air Base, Japan, May 19-20

Defending champions — Division I: Combined, Kubasaki; boys, Kubasaki; girls, Kinnick. Division II: Combined, boys, girls, Zion Christian Academy.

Participating teams — Kinnick, Yokota, Zama, Edgren, Christian Academy Japan, St. Mary's (boys only), Seisen (girls only), Sacred Heart (girls only), American School In Japan: Okinawa Christian, Zion Christian, Kadena, Kubasaki; Guam, Seoul American, Humphreys, Daegu.

Schedule

Monday
(All distances in meters)

Boys shot put and high jump, girls discus and long jump, 9:30 a.m.
Boys 800 final, 10 a.m.
Girls 100 hurdles prelims, 10:30 a.m.
Boys 110 hurdles prelims, 10:45 a.m.
Girls 100 prelims, 11 a.m.

Boys 100 prelims, 11:15 a.m.
Girls 3:20 relay final, 11:30 a.m.
Girls 400 relay prelims, noon
Boys 400 relay prelims, 12:15 p.m.
Girls 400 prelims, 12:30 p.m.
Boys 400 prelims, 12:45 p.m.
Girls 300 hurdles prelims, 1 p.m.
Boys 300 hurdles prelims, 1:35 p.m.
Boys 1,600 final, 2 p.m.
Girls 200 prelims, 2:15 p.m.
Boys 200 prelims, 2:30 p.m.
Girls 3:20 final, 2:45 p.m.
Girls 1,600 relay prelims, 3:15 p.m.
Boys 1,600 relay prelims, 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday

Boys discus and long jump, girls shot put and high jump, 10 a.m.
Girls 800 final, 10:30 a.m.
Girls 100 hurdles final, 11 a.m.
Boys 110 hurdles final, 11:15 a.m.
Girls 100 final, 11:30 a.m.
Boys 100 final, 11:45 a.m.
Boys 3:20 relay final, noon
Girls 400 relay final, 12:15 p.m.
Boys 400 relay final, 12:30 p.m.
Girls 400 final, 12:45 p.m.
Boys 400 final, 1 p.m.
Girls 300 hurdles final, 1:15 p.m.
Boys 300 hurdles final, 1:30 p.m.
Girls 1,600 final, 1:45 p.m.
Girls 200 final, 2 p.m.
Boys 200 final, 2:15 p.m.
Girls 3:20 final, 2:30 p.m.
Boys 1,600 relay final, 2:45 p.m.
Boys 1,600 relay final, 3 p.m.

Okinawa Christian relies on sprinter Tai Calvin and distance men Shawn Monroe and Kento Nambura.

And the D-II teams may figure into how the D-I schools finish. While team points are segregated by division, all athletes are shooting for the same event titles, unlike any other Far East sport, Campbell said.

"They're going to take points away not just from us, but from ev-

eryone else," Campbell said. "That puts us all in the same mix."

Then there are the factors not known until race day — last-minute injuries or illnesses, athletes not bringing their A game or not being used to the weather.

"That may change their performance," Campbell said. "A lot of interesting circumstances can crop up."

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

College basketball

Wednesday's scores

TOURNAMENTS
NCAA Division I
McMillen Regional
First Round
Linfield 1, Louisiana 11
New England Regional
First Round
Endicott 6, MIT 4
Mitchell 4, E. Connecticut 3, 11 innings
Turfs 3, St. Joseph's (Maine) 1
New York Regional
First Round
Cortland 6, Castleton 0

College lacrosse

NCAA Division I

lacrosse tournament

Play-In Round

Wednesday, May 7
Bryant 9, Siena 5
Air Force 13, Richmond 5

First Round

Saturday, May 10
Albany (N.Y.) 13, Loyola (Md.) 6
Duke 20, Pennsylvania 11

Monday, May 13
Maryland 8, Cornell 7
North Carolina 13, Virginia 10

Sunday, May 11
Johns Hopkins 14, Virginia 8
Duke 20, Syracuse 9

Quarterfinals

Saturday, May 17
at Hempstead, N.Y.
Bryant 15, Albany (N.Y.) 9

Sunday, May 18
at Newark, Del.
Johns Hopkins vs. Duke
Drexel vs. Virginia

Semifinals

Saturday, May 18
at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Albany (N.Y.)-Notre Dame winner vs. Maryland
Johns Hopkins-Duke winner vs. Drexel
Denver winner

Championship

Sunday, May 26
at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Semifinal winners

Boxing

Fight schedule

May 16
At Foxwoods, Mashantucket, Conn.: Joel Diaz Jr. vs. Tyler Asseltine, two super featherweights.
At MGM, Las Vegas: Daniel Rodriguez vs. Joachim Alcine, 10, light middleweights; Daniel Roache vs. Jose Banks, 10 rounds, heavyweights.

May 17
At the Forum, Inglewood, Calif.: Juan Manuel Marquez vs. Mike Alvarado, 12, welterweight; Victor Postol vs. Selcuk Aydin, 12, WBC junior welterweight eliminator; Diego Magalhães vs. Oscar Brind, 10, junior lightweights.

May 23
At Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, N.Y.: Brian Jennings vs. Willie Monroe Jr., 10, "Boxing" middleweight final; Petr Petrov vs. Fernando Carmarco, 10, "Boxing" lightweights.

May 24
At Bell Centre, Montreal, Adonis Stevenson vs. Andriej Fonfara, 12, for Stevenson's WBC light heavyweight title; Julian Williams vs. Michael Medina, 10, light middleweights; Mikael Zewski vs. Daniel Dzale, 10, for the vacant NABF welterweight title; Elder Alexander vs. Alexander Johnson, 10, for the vacant WBA junior bantamweight title; David Lemieux vs. Fernando Guerrero, 10, middleweights; Jermell Charlo vs. Clio Iota, 10, junior middleweights.

At American Bank Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, Bryant Jennings vs. Willie Monroe Jr., 12, WBC heavyweight eliminator; Daniel Roache vs. Jose Banks, 10, heavyweights; Edwin Rodriguez vs. Marcus Duhaime, 10, super middleweights.

At Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico: David Sanchez vs. Brellor Teran, 12, for the vacant WBA junior bantamweight title.
At Acapulco, Mexico, Johnny Gonzalez vs. Daniel Dzale, 12, for Gonzalez's WBC featherweight title.

May 30
At Moscow, Alexander Povetkin vs. Manuel Charr, 12, for the vacant WBC international heavyweight title.

Pro baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	20	18	52.6
Boston	19	19	51.3
New York	20	19	52.6
Toronto	20	23	48.8
Tampa Bay	20	23	48.8

Central Division			
Pct			
Detroit	20	19	51.3
Kansas City	20	19	51.3
St. Louis	22	17	47.6
Cleveland	19	21	47.6
Chicago	19	21	47.6
Minnesota	19	21	47.6

West Division			
Pct			
Oakland	21	18	53.8
Los Angeles	20	20	50.0
Seattle	20	20	50.0
Los Angeles	14	27	40.8
Houston	14	27	40.8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division			
Pct			
Atlanta	22	17	56.2
Washington	22	17	56.2
Miami	21	20	51.2
New York	20	20	48.7
Philadelphia	17	21	44.7

Central Division			
Pct			
Milwaukee	20	20	50.0
St. Louis	19	21	47.6
Chicago	19	21	47.6
Pittsburgh	17	22	43.8
Cincinnati	17	22	43.8

West Division			
Pct			
San Francisco	23	19	54.8
Colorado	23	19	54.8
San Diego	19	21	47.6
Arizona	16	24	40.8

Tuesday's games			
Detroit 4, Baltimore 3			
St. Louis 10, Philadelphia 3			
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 7			
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4			
Minnesota 5, Boston 6			
Los Angeles 10, Houston 5			
Houston 8, Texas 0			
Atlanta 11, Chicago White Sox 0			
Tampa Bay 2, Seattle 1			
St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1			
Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 2			
St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 12			
St. Louis 3, Washington 2			
Los Angeles 7, Miami 1			
San Francisco 5, San Francisco 5			

Wednesday's games			
Detroit 4, Baltimore 3			
St. Louis 10, Philadelphia 3			
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 7			
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4			
Minnesota 5, Boston 6			
Los Angeles 10, Houston 5			
Houston 8, Texas 0			
Atlanta 11, Chicago White Sox 0			
Tampa Bay 2, Seattle 1			
St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1			
Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 2			
St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 12			
St. Louis 3, Washington 2			
Los Angeles 7, Miami 1			
San Francisco 5, San Francisco 5			

Thursday's games			
Boston 1, Minnesota 0			
Los Angeles 13, Philadelphia 0			
Atlanta 3, Colorado 2			
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 2			
Tampa Bay 2, Seattle 0			
Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 2			
St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 12			
St. Louis 3, Washington 2			
Los Angeles 7, Miami 1			
San Francisco 5, San Francisco 5			

Friday's games			
Oakland (Gray 4-1) at Cleveland (McAllister 3-2)			
Toronto (Hutchinson 1-3) at Texas (Lester 4-4)			
Toronto (Hutchinson 1-3) at Texas (Lester 4-4)			
Toronto (Hutchinson 1-3) at Texas (Lester 4-4)			

Saturday's games			
Los Angeles 13, Philadelphia 0			
Atlanta 3, Colorado 2			
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 2			
Tampa Bay 2, Seattle 0			
Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 2			
St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 12			
St. Louis 3, Washington 2			
Los Angeles 7, Miami 1			
San Francisco 5, San Francisco 5			

Sunday's games			
Boston 1, Minnesota 0			
Los Angeles 13, Philadelphia 0			
Atlanta 3, Colorado 2			
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 2			
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PREAKNESS STAKES



GARRY JONES/AP

Ria Antonia, the lone filly in the Preakness, looks over the foggy track with exercise rider Maurice Sanchez aboard at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore on Thursday. Ria Antonia is a 30-1 underdog.

Feeling good about his filly

Co-owner of Ria Antonia expects long shot to be right in the running

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Maybe it's because she's a girl among boys. Perhaps it's because the horse hasn't won in 10 months, or ever attempted a race this long.

Whatever the reason, Ria Antonia is the long shot in the 10-horse Preakness field, a whopping 30-1 underdog behind 3-5 favorite California Chrome, the Kentucky Derby winner.

"I wish she was 50-1," co-owner Ron Paolucci said of Ria Antonia. "The way she works and trains, she thinks she's 3-5."

After finishing sixth in the Kentucky Oaks two weeks ago, Ria Antonia will attempt to become the first filly to win the Preakness since Rachel Alexandra in 2009. Paolucci isn't guaranteeing a victory Saturday, but he expects his 3-year-old to be right there.

"She's as fast as any horse in the race," Paolucci insisted. "She worked with all of (Hall of Fame trainer) Bob Baffert's horses and she more than held her own. She's a great work horse. Has she translated that every race? No. But she has the ability. Can she beat California Chrome if he runs as good as he did in the Derby? No. Would it be embarrassing to run second if California Chrome runs freakishly good again? No. We're not planning on being that far out of it."

Paolucci likes the way his horse rebounded from the May 2 race at Churchill Downs, so he thought it would be a good idea to enter the Preakness.

"I'm not looking forward to running against Cali-

By the numbers

1³/₁₆

Miles in the Preakness, making it the longest race Ria Antonia has run.

fornia Chrome, but if I have to do it, I want to do it on two weeks (rest)," he said. "She's ready to go, she's kicking down the barn. I think it's right up her alley. If she runs half as good as she trains, I wouldn't want to trade with anybody."

Ria Antonia will be ridden by Calvin Borel, who was replaced on Ride On Curlin by Joel Rosario. Ride On Curlin and General a Rod are the only two horses from the Derby who went to Pimlico for a rematch with California Chrome.

California Chrome drew the No. 3 post, which wasn't perfect but not a huge disappointment.

"Three is fine with me," 77-year-old trainer Art Sherman said. "Most of the speed is on the outside of me. If they go they go, I can tick in right behind them without any problems. I look for a good race. I think my horse will perform at the Preakness."

Less than 20 feet away in the same room, Paolucci explained why Sherman and California Chrome jockey Victor Espinoza should be worried.

"From where he drew it's going to be very interesting how Espinoza rides because you're not going to want to get trapped down inside when Social Inclusion is on the lead," Paolucci said. "Bayern is going to be out there. There's no easy spot for Victor. It's not going to be as easy as the Derby."

Preakness: Social Inclusion a threat to Triple Crown hopes

FROM BACK PAGE

"Oh, boy, 3-5, it makes you want to choke," said his trainer, Art Sherman. "But I wouldn't want to be in anybody else's position. Hey, listen, when you can be the 3-5 favorite in the Preakness, you must have deserved to be that."

Sherman describes himself as more of a pragmatist than Coburn. He downplayed talk of his horse's sweeping through the Preakness and Belmont Stakes. "Oh, man, I think about the Triple Crown, but I'm a race-by-race kind of guy," said the 77-year-old Sherman, who has never trained a horse on this kind of stage. "Let's get over with the Preakness."

With California Chrome so pre-eminent, the nine other entrants have felt like afterthoughts at times this week. But Social Inclusion, the 5-1 second choice in the morning line, is a new threat: the rare 3-year-old who has run as fast as a peak California Chrome.

Owner Ron Sanchez was initially concerned with Social Inclusion's No. 8 post draw. His mood brightened when he saw slower starters Kid Cruz and Ria Antonia inside his horse. He came away predicting a clean break to the lead for his speedy challenger.

"We're going to be in a good position in the early stage," he said. "I think we have a nice spot."

Sanchez praised California Chrome but said the favorite would have to run harder in the early stages of the Preakness than he did in the slow-paced Kentucky Derby. "I'm never afraid of nothing," he added.

Many expect Saturday's race to be ruled by early speed. Beyond Social Inclusion, Bob Baffert-trained Bayern and late Derby scratch Pablo Del Monte like to set an aggressive early pace. Bayern will start from the No. 5 post as a 10-1 third choice in the morning line. Pablo Del Monte will start from the No. 9 post at 20-1 odds.

If the speed horses jump out quickly, which didn't happen at Churchill Downs, California Chrome's reaction could determine his fate. Recent history suggests he is a solid bet in the 1³/₁₆-mile Preakness. Eight of the past 17 Derby champions have also won at Pimlico.

Sherman welcomes the early speed. "I'm really OK with it," he said. "My horse is kind of push-button. He can stay with any horse. He's got a lot of target on his back, and I know that Victor (Espinoza) will ride him well."

He seemed unsure what to make of Social Inclusion, given the gifted challenger's light, three-race resume.

"I watched him run," Sherman said. "He acts like a runner, but I just don't know where to put him, how to put him in a category. I know he runs fast, but does he have that much ability when somebody's got the same ability?"

Only two other challengers from the Derby, Ride on Curlin and General a Rod, are taking a shot at California Chrome in Baltimore. Ride on Curlin drew the No. 10 post and is a 10-1 third choice. General a Rod will start from the No. 2 post as a 15-1 choice in the morning line.

Ride on Curlin also drew an outside post in the Derby, but trainer Billy Gowan said it was a bigger problem in a 19-horse field. "I think it's less of a big deal," he said. "We're already eight horses in from where we started in Kentucky. There's a bunch of speed, so we'll just lay off the pace and have a target to shoot for in the end."

He was a touch surprised at the odds on California Chrome. "But he's definitely the horse to beat," Gowan said. "We're just glad to be here with him."

Recent history suggests California Chrome is a solid bet in the Preakness. Eight of the past 17 Derby champions have also won at Pimlico.

Dynamic Impact, a 12-1 fifth choice, drew the dreaded No. 1 spot. But he won from No. 1 at the Illinois Derby. "It's obviously not ideal," assistant trainer Norman Casse said. "But we're not going to be too upset about it."

Feustle put 20-1 odds on two horses with local ties: Maryland

trainer Graham Motion's gelding, Ring Weekend, and late charger Kid Cruz, the only entrant to have won at Pimlico. Filly Ria Antonia is the longest shot at 30-1.

"It's going to be a real rider's race with speed on the inside, speed on the outside," said her co-owner, Ron Paolucci. "Who's going to go? Who's going to not go? I wouldn't want to be on one of the horses that want the front and because whatever judgments these riders make, they're going to get questioned."

The Baltimore Sun's Don Markus and Jon Meoli contributed to this article.

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AUTO RACING



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

France's Simon Pagenaud sits in his car Wednesday as he waits to practice for the Indianapolis 500.

Five things to know

Up to speed

Pagenaud fastest at Indy practice

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Simon Pagenaud already has one Indianapolis victory in his pocket. He may soon be in position to win the second of this month's triple crown.

Four days after becoming the first IndyCar driver to win a road race at the famous speedway, the Frenchman jumped to the top of the speed chart on one of the strangest practice days in memory. Pagenaud turned a fast lap of 226.122 mph Wednesday — becoming the first driver to top 226 mph this week — after track officials extended practice by one hour.

"It's always enjoyable to get close to 230. Hopefully, we can break that in qualifying," Pagenaud said in his normally understated tone. "That would be great, but the car is fantastic. I'm very happy."

American J.R. Hildebrand was second at 225.854 mph.

"It's great to see that the car has the speed in it because at the end of the day you rarely go through practice with guys that are capable of setting those fast times, they end up being the guys that have the quicker cars," said Hildebrand, who is driving for Ed Carpenter. "Certainly our focus is trying to make sure not what we put in a big tow lap, but that we can catch up to that guy and pass him, and leapfrog through the

next few guys."

Here are five other things to know from Wednesday's practice:

1 Quick trip: Though 29 cars made it onto the track for practice, one was notably absent: Kurt Busch's No. 26. With the forecast calling for rain all day Wednesday, the 2004 NASCAR Sprint Cup champion who is attempting to become the fourth driver to complete "the double" decided to make a quick trip to Stewart-Haas Racing headquarters in Charlotte. He was expected to return for Indy practice Thursday and Friday.

2 Rookie crash: English rookie Jack Hawksworth became the first driver to crash on the oval this month. He spun in the third turn and slammed into the SAFER barrier before stopping in the chute between the third and fourth turns. Practice was halted after the crash, at 6 p.m., so the SAFER barrier could be repaired. Hawksworth climbed out of the car on his own, was checked at the infield medical center and cleared to drive. "I have no idea what happened, to be honest. We just went into three and it just snapped, so we'll have to look into it," he said.

3 Penalties: Series officials also handed down three penalties from Saturday's race. Chevrolet was fined \$20,000 and docked 10 engine manufacturer's points for viola-

ting rules on torque and traction control. Jim Campbell, the U.S. vice president in charge of performance vehicles for the company, said in a statement the company disagrees with the ruling. IndyCar also fined Sam Schmidt's team for breaking a rule on the underlying splitter on Pagenaud's winning No. 77 car. Team Penske was fined \$1,000 for breaking a rule on the differential assembly on Helio Castroneves' No. 3 car.

4 Forecasting problems: Rain wiped out almost nine hours of practice time over the past two days, and the weather isn't expected to get much better until qualifying begins Saturday. There was a 30 percent chance of rain Thursday and a 50 percent chance of rain Friday. But it's not just the wet weather causing problems. Temperatures were in the 50s on Wednesday and that's where they're expected to stay until Saturday.

5 Joining the team: The Andreotti Autosport Formula E team announced Wednesday it will become the first race team to join the Green Sports Alliance. The group is a collaboration of teams, venues and leagues dedicated to the greening of the sports industry. Last year, Andreotti's team won the FIA Formula E Championship, which exclusively features open-wheel race cars powered by electricity.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race at Concord, N.C.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m. Sunday, CET; 6 p.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: Sprint Showdown, 40 laps (only counting green-flag laps), 60 miles (two 20-lap segments). Sprint All-Star, 90 laps, 135 miles (four 20-lap segments and a 10-lap finale with only green-flag laps counting in the last segment).

Last year: Jimmie Johnson won for the record fourth time, joining the late Davey Allison as only drivers to win two years in a row.

Last week: Jeff Gordon won at Kansas Speedway for his 89th Sprint Cup victory, holding off Kevin Harvick.

Next race: Coca-Cola 600, May 25, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	394
2. Matt Kenseth	379
3. Kyle Busch	373
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	368
5. Carl Edwards	367
6. Joey Logano	346
7. Jimmie Johnson	340
8. Ryan Newman	332
9. Greg Biffle	328
10. Brian Vickers	327
11. Brad Keselowski	326
12. Denny Hamlin	318
13. Kyle Larson	318
14. Austin Dillon	306
15. Kevin Harvick	302
16. Casey Kahne	294
17. A.J. Allmendinger	293
18. Paul Menard	292
19. Marcos Ambrose	288
20. Clint Bowyer	282

Driver to watch

Few drivers have had the success that Jimmie Johnson has had at Charlotte Motor Speedway. His six victories at the track tie him with Bobby Allison and Darrell Waltrip. Although the All-Star race isn't a point race and won't affect the Sprint Cup standings, that doesn't seem to matter to Johnson. Still, he hasn't won a race yet this year and his best finish was a second place at Martinsville on March 30. But he has five other top-10 finishes and two other top-five finishes and sits in seventh place in the standings.



CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: North Carolina Education Lottery 200 at Concord, N.C.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 201 miles, 134 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to his fifth series victory at the track.

Last week: Busch dominated the caution-filled race at Kansas Speedway.

Next race: Lucas Oil 200, May 30, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Del.

Online: nascar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Get To Know Newton 250 at Newton, Iowa.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday, CET; 3 p.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Race distance: 218.75 miles, 250 laps.

Last year: Trevor Bayne won the rain-delayed race.

Last race: Brett Sadler raced to his first Talladega victory May 3, winning a three-lap shootout.

Next race: History 300, May 24, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Monaco Grand Prix, May 25, Circuit de Monaco, Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Last week: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix.

Online: formula1.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next race: Indianapolis 500, May 25, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Last week: France's Simon Pagenaud won the inaugural Grand Prix of Indianapolis.

Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Summer Nationals at Commerce, Ga.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m. Monday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Atlanta Dragway.

Last year: Antron Brown won the Top Fuel final in the rain-delayed event. Johnny Gray topped the Funny Car field, and Mike Edwards won in Pro Stock.

Last event: Erica Enders-Stevens raced to her second Pro Stock victory of the season, winning the Sprint Nationals on April 27 in Baytown, Texas. Brown won in Top Fuel, and Robert Hight topped the Funny Car field.

Next race: NHRA Kansas Nationals, May 23-25, Heartland Park Topeka, Topeka, Kan.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER SERIES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS Sprint Car: Saturday, Williams Grove Speedway, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; Sunday, Orange County Fair Speedway, Middletown, New York.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

Series capsules
by The Associated Press

NFL

Sanders welcomes Broncos' WR pick

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Emmanuel Sanders is still learning his way around town. That's not stopping him from putting out a big welcome mat from rookie wide receiver Cody Latimer.

Sanders, who signed a three-year, \$15 million free agent deal in Denver less than two months ago, said he's glad the Broncos drafted a wide receiver in the second round last weekend.

"I like it," Sanders said after running routes for Peyton Manning in an offseason workout Wednesday. "Whoever wants to come in and put their hands in the pile and help us win a championship, the more the merrier."

"Like I said, this is my fifth year, things happen, guys get hurt. I've always said you're only as strong as your weakest link. And the more guys we bring in here who are about winning and the better they are physically and mentally, the better we are as a team."

Both Sanders and Latimer are expected to replace some of what Eric Decker brought to the Broncos before leaving for the New York Jets in free agency this spring.

At 5-foot-11 and 185 pounds, Sanders brings speed, separation and versatility to the mix and could replace Decker's 87 catches.

At a shade under 6-foot-3 and 215 pounds, Latimer has an uncommon mix of size, speed and strength in the mold of Denver's No. 1 receiver, Demaryius Thomas, but his blocking skills are more like those of Decker, who helped free his fellow pass-catch-

ers on pick plays last season.

Latimer, who starred at Indiana, also is known for his sure hands, something he attributes to his background on the basketball court, where he was a power forward. He said his physical play in the post also led to his aggressive nature on the football field.

The Denver Post reported Wednesday that Latimer will be limited in training camp until he recovers from a fractured bone in one of his feet. Latimer had surgery to repair the break in January, the newspaper reported, and he missed all but the bench press at the combine in February before returning to run superb times in the 40-yard dash and jump 39 inches in the vertical jump during his pro day workout on March 26.

Sanders, a third-round draft pick by Pittsburgh in 2010, had 161 catches for 2,030 yards and 11 touchdowns in four seasons with the Steelers. He also has 13 receptions for 172 yards in four career playoff games.

Sanders can play both the slot and the outside, just like Decker did.

He's going from Ben Roethlisberger, a scrambler who likes to improvise, to Manning, a precision passer who's more about timing, but Sanders said it's not really the big transition one might think.

"No, I'll tell you what, those two guys, they want to make big comparisons, but Ben can throw it, Peyton can throw it. Both of those guys I feel like are future first-ballot Hall of Famers. The difference is, Peyton throws the ball a lot more. He's in a passing system. Ben is in more of a balanced attack," Sanders said.

'Whoever wants to come in and put their hands in the pile and help us win a championship, the more the merrier.'

Emmanuel Sanders
Denver WR



JASON DE CROON/AP

Indiana wide receiver Cody Latimer reacts after being selected by the Denver Broncos during the second round of the NFL Draft. Latimer was the 56th overall pick Friday in New York.



TONY DEAN/AP

Cleveland quarterback Johnny Manziel answers questions at his introductory news conference Friday in Berea, Ohio. The Browns selected Manziel with the 22nd overall pick in the first round of the NFL Draft.

Browns limiting access to newest star Manziel

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Browns are tackling Manzielmania. Containing it could be a lot tougher.

In an effort to minimize the frenzy around quarterback Johnny Manziel, the Browns are limiting media access to the first-round draft pick's appearance this weekend at the team's rookie minicamp.

The Browns are only allowing only local reporters — and maybe some select national ones — to be at the former Texas A&M star's first practice as an NFL player. The Browns selected Manziel in last week's draft, and already the 21-year-old has brought long-sought attention to a sleeping franchise that has had just two winning seasons in the past 15 years.

It's not clear what criteria the Browns are using to determine who is allowed into the workouts.

Since drafting Manziel, college football's biggest star, the team has been inundated with interview requests. Beyond that, the Browns have sold nearly 3,000 season-ticket packages and Manziel's No. 2 jersey is the most coveted fashion item in town. The Browns have altered their practice availability in recent days. After originally saying Saturday's practice would be open, reporters and photographers will now only watch the first 15 minutes when players do stretching exercises and individual drills. Also, first-year Browns coach Mike Pettine has decided to close Sunday's practice to the media.

Pettine has experience with media mayhem. He was on New York's coaching staff when the Jets acquired quarterback Tim Tebow and he wants the Browns to get out in front of any potential problems.

"We have a plan for that," Pettine said of handling the hype around Manziel. "We know it will bring a lot of attention. We'll be in the business of controlling what we can control."

The Browns are doing all they can to keep Manziel from thinking he's the Browns' savior.

Earlier this week, owner Jimmy Haslam said the



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

A Cleveland fan reacts after the Browns selected Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel.

team has told Manziel not to expect anything other than a chance to compete for the starting job. If he wants to be Cleveland's No. 1 quarterback, he'll have to beat out Brian Hoyer.

"He's not the starter," Haslam said at a luncheon event in Canton. "Brian Hoyer is our starting quarterback. Johnny is the backup. They'll compete. If Johnny wins the job, fine. If not, Brian will be the quarterback. That's the way it is and that's the way it's been expressed to him."

NHL PLAYOFFS

Bye-bye Bruins

Price, Montreal deliver knockout punch to Boston on road in Game 7

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Carey Price has already led Canada to an Olympic gold medal this year.

Now he has the nation's last remaining NHL playoff team a step closer to the Stanley Cup finals.

The Montreal goalie made 29 saves in a Game 7 victory over the Boston Bruins on Wednesday night, helping the Canadiens advance to the Eastern Conference finals. They will face the New York Rangers when the series opens on Saturday in Montreal.

"He's unbelievable," Canadiens defenseman Andrei Markov said after Price followed up a Game 6 shutout by allowing just one goal in the clincher. "There's not much to explain; he's the best, you know."

Dale Weise, Max Pacioretty and Daniel Briere scored for the Canadiens, who needed a win in Game 6 on Monday to force a Game 7. They beat the Bruins 4-0, then came to Boston and Price dominated again.

It's just the second time since winning their NHL-best 24th Stanley Cup title in 1993 that the Canadiens have reached the third round of the playoffs.

"I am ecstatic," said Price, who was backing up Jaroslav Halak in 2010, the last time Montreal reached the conference finals. "But at the same time you have to realize that it's not over. We are only halfway there."

Weise scored just 2:18 into the game to quiet the Boston crowd and then Pacioretty made it 2-0 midway through the second. Jarome Iginla



As a Bruins fans watches, Canadiens wing Dale Weise, left, celebrates his goal with Brandon Prust during the first period of Montreal's 3-1 win in Game 7 in Boston on Wednesday.

"We just beat the best team in the league. Down 3-2, we showed a lot of ... passion. To win a series in Boston, it is a tough place for people to come and play here."

Michel Therrien
Montreal Canadiens coach

cut the Canadiens' lead to 2-1 at the end of the second when Price decided to address his team before the third period.

"He was more confident than I have ever seen him before," Pacioretty said. "He spoke up and said something like 'Only live in the moment, don't worry about the past' ... I'm speechless at how he is playing."

Montreal made it 3-1 with about three minutes left when Briere scored a power-play goal off the skate of Boston's Zdeno Chara.

"We just beat the best team in the league," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. "Down

3-2, we showed a lot of character, a lot of passion. To win a series in Boston, it is a tough place for people to come and play here."

In front of boisterous crowds on both sides of the border, the Canadiens won the 34th playoff series between the two clubs — the ninth that went the seven-game distance.

Boston finished with the best record in the regular season this year, but its road stopped against its Original Six rival in another classic playoff series. After finishing the regular season with an NHL-best 117 points, home-ice advantage meant little to the Bruins.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

SEMIFINALS
Montreal 4, Boston 3
 Montreal 4, Boston 3, 2OT
 Boston 5, Montreal 3
 Montreal 4, Boston 2
 Boston 1, Montreal 0, OT
 Boston 4, Montreal 2
 Montreal 4, Boston 0
Wednesday: Montreal 3, Boston 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 3
 N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
 Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Rangers 0
 Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
 N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 1
 N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 1
 N.Y. Rangers 2, Pittsburgh 1

FINALS
N.Y. Rangers vs. Montreal
 Saturday: at Montreal
 Rest of series TBA

Western Conference

SEMIFINALS
Chicago 4, Minnesota 2
 Chicago 4, Minnesota 2
 Minnesota 4, Chicago 0
 Minnesota 4, Chicago 2
 Chicago 2, Minnesota 1
 Chicago 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 3
 Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2, OT
 Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 1
 Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 2
 Anaheim 2, Los Angeles 0
 Anaheim 4, Los Angeles 3
Wednesday: Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 1
Friday: at Anaheim
FINALS
Chicago vs. Anaheim/Los Angeles
 Sunday: Chicago at Anaheim OR Los Angeles at Chicago
 Rest of series TBA

Wednesday

Canadians 3, Bruins 1

Montreal	1	1	1-3
Boston	0	1	0-1

First Period—1, Montreal, Weise 3 (Briere, Prust), 2:18.
Second Period—2, Montreal, Pacioretty 3 (Desharnais, Gallagher), 10:22, 3, Boston, Iginla 5 (Ortu, Krejci), 17:58 (pp).
Third Period—4, Montreal, Briere 2 (Gallagher), 10:17 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Montreal 6-8-4=18, Boston 9-13-8=30.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 5; Boston 1 of 3.
Goalies—Montreal, Price 8-3-0 (30 shots=29 saves), Boston, Rask 7-5-0 (18-15).
A—17,565 (17,565), T—2:40.

Kings 2, Ducks 1

Anaheim	0	1	0-1
Los Angeles	1	1	0-2

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Muzzin 3 (Kopitar, Gaborik), 8:16.
Second Period—2, Los Angeles, Lewis 4 (Williams, Vovnov), 14:04, 3, Anaheim, Palmieri 2 (Bonino), 15:42.
Shots on Goal—Anaheim 5-7-10=22, Los Angeles 8-8-7=23.
Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 5; Los Angeles 0 of 4.
Goalies—Anaheim, Gibson 2-1-0 (23 shots=21 saves), Los Angeles, Quick 7-6-0 (22-21).
A—18,519 (18,118), T—2:33.

Unlikely heroes emerge as Kings' top Ducks, avoid elimination

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After conquering almost every conceivable obstacle in the Stanley Cup playoffs over the last few years, the pressure of an elimination game doesn't bother the Los Angeles Kings.

With goals from two unlikely sources and a vintage game from their star goalie, the Kings methodically made sure the first postseason Freeway Faceoff will go the limit.

Trevor Lewis scored his fourth goal of the postseason, Jonathan Quick made 21 saves, and the Kings forced a seventh game with a 2-1 victory over the Anaheim Ducks in Game 6 on Wednesday night at Staples Center.

Jake Muzzin scored an early goal for the Kings, who ended their three-game skid with an-

other sturdy defensive effort at home.

Los Angeles improved to 6-1 in postseason elimination games over the last two seasons while beating Ducks goalie John Gibson for the first time in his six-game NHL career.

The Kings clearly have a hunger for high stakes. The top-seeded Ducks will find out how they taste in Game 7 on Friday night at home inside the Honda Center.

"Our team is built to play in these kinds of games," Kings defenseman Drew Doughty said. "Our leaders show the way, and everyone follows. We look forward to playing in these games. We're not nervous."

The Kings again proved their postseason credentials are unsailable after winning a Stanley Cup title in 2012 and returning



Los Angeles' Jake Muzzin, left, celebrates his goal in front of Anaheim's Patrick Maroon in Game 6 on Wednesday.

to the conference finals last year. Responding to Anaheim's three straight wins with calm, intelligent defense, Los Angeles forced its second seven-game series of this postseason after rallying from

an 0-3 deficit in the first round to stun San Jose.

Los Angeles largely controlled Game 6, shutting down the Ducks' power play and their top scorers. The Kings killed two penalties in the third period and survived the frantic final seconds with barely a hiccup.

"It's a result (of the fact that) this group has been through a lot of things, being in these very uncomfortable situations," Los Angeles captain Dustin Brown said. "When you have that trust and experience with each other, it puts it in perspective. We've been through a lot worse."

Kyle Palmieri scored and Gibson stopped 21 shots for the Ducks, who could have clinched their first trip to the Western Conference finals since 2007.

The Southern California ri-



Los Angeles at Anaheim

Game 7

AFN-Sports

3 a.m. Saturday CET

10 a.m. Saturday JKT

vals' scintillating first postseason meeting is the NHL's only second-round series still going.

The winner of Game 7 at Honda Center faces the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks, who will have four days before the conference finals open Sunday in Anaheim or Chicago.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Rangers get a break before Eastern final

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers' latest seven-game playoff victory came with a bonus: a much-needed break.

The overworked Broadway Blueshirts suddenly found themselves in a different and enviable position, resting and waiting for their opponent in the Eastern Conference finals.

Now they know they will meet the Montreal Canadiens with a spot in the Stanley Cup finals on the line.

The Rangers enjoyed a full day off on Wednesday before settling in to watch Game 7 between Montreal and the Boston Bruins. The Canadiens outlasted Boston, which led the NHL with 117 points in the regular season, and advanced with a 3-1 road win.

One night earlier, the Rangers also captured a Game 7 victory away from home when they knocked out the favored Pittsburgh Penguins.

After a hectic ending to their first-round series against Philadelphia, and a hurried and condensed start to their matchup with Pittsburgh, the Rangers got a three-day break before they face Montreal in Game 1 on Saturday.

Although the Canadiens have one fewer day to prepare, they will have home-ice advantage. The Rangers were 1-1-1 this season against Montreal, which finished fourth points ahead of New York.

The Rangers returned from Pittsburgh after a stirring 2-1 win in Game 7 on Tuesday that capped the club's first comeback from a 3-1 series deficit. This rally seemed particularly unlikely after the Rangers fell into the hole with a Game 4 home loss in their worst performance of the playoffs.

But once they stayed alive in



Eastern finals: Game 1
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT

Pittsburgh and then won Game 6 at home, the tide shifted into their favor as the NHL's best recent Game 7 team set its sights on another winner-take-all matchup.

The Rangers are in the conference finals for the second time in three years, but they haven't reached the Stanley Cup finals since winning the title in 1994. "We battled so hard as a team the last three games," Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist said after a 35-save performance. "After losing that fourth game it was tough. We got such a good start in the series and then had a big letdown."

New York began the series with an overtime win in Pittsburgh before dropping three straight, including consecutive shutout losses in Games 2 and 3. That marked the first time the Rangers were blanked in consecutive playoff games since 1937.

Lundqvist then picked up his game even more, to match Pittsburgh netminder Marc-Andre Fleury, and delivered his team to the NHL's final four.

"It's been so intense the last couple days. Now it's really important to reload physically and mentally," he said.

The Rangers have won five Game 7s in the last three playoff



New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) leaps in the air as time expires in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday at Bell Centre in Montreal.

seasons, an unprecedented feat in the NHL, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, and they became the third team to win five consecutive Game 7s.

Lundqvist has been in goal for all of them.

The Swedish star became the first goalie to win five straight Game 7s, and in doing so has posted a 0.80 goals-against average and a .973 save percentage. He is also the first to allow one goal or fewer in five consecutive deciding games.

Lundqvist is 5-1 with a record-low 1.00 goals-against average in Game 7. In New York's final three wins over the Penguins, he

stopped 102 of 105 shots.

"I'm sure they were frustrated at Henrik and the way they were playing," Rangers defenseman Ryan McDonagh said of Penguins stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. "We knew Hank was going to make the save most times if he could see it."

The Rangers wrapped up their first-round win over the Flyers with a 2-1 home victory in Game 7 that completed a stretch of three games in four nights. New York then started the second round after just one day off and jumped into an unprecedented second round of three in four days.

Rangers coach Alain Vigneault was reluctant to say his team was tired, but did refer to the schedule as "stupid" following a frustrating home loss.

Yet somehow his club overcame it and the 3-1 hole against the favored Penguins. It remains to be seen how much the wear and tear will impact the Rangers against Montreal.

"It's just going to get a lot more fun," McDonagh said.

Since the NHL went to all seven-game series in 1987, no Stanley Cup champion has played more than one seven-game series before the finals.

Steady Crawford key to Blackhawks' run

The Associated Press

CHICAGO
Corey Crawford started every single playoff game when the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup last year. Detroit had Jimmy Howard in goal, Jonathan Quick was in net for Los Angeles, Boston had Tuukka Rask, and Crawford beat each one of them.

Chicago's unassuming goaltender still had his doubters when this season began.

Not so much right now. Crawford is among the NHL's playoff leaders with a .931 save percentage and 1.97 goals-against average, leading the Blackhawks to the Western Conference finals for the fourth time in six seasons. The breakout postseason comes after he set career highs for games and starts while going 32-16-10 in the regular season.

"It's another step closer to our ultimate goal and we're pretty excited about that right now," Crawford said moments after he helped finish off Minnesota in the second round. "Resilient bunch and we never give up or get down, never get too high. That was a pretty good finish for this one."

With Chicago locked in a tight series with the improving Wild, Crawford stepped up at a pivotal moment for the Blackhawks' title defense.

He had 27 saves in Game 5, helping the Blackhawks rally for a 2-1 win and a 3-2 series lead. Then he made 34 more stops in a 2-1 win at Minnesota on Tuesday night, keeping his team in the game until Patrick Kane got free for the series-clinching goal in overtime.

"He was big," Kane said. "Seems to be a trend in this building, kind of in the second period, that they outplay us. I'm sure he wasn't happiest with us with how we were playing in front of him. But he did what he does. He's a great goaltender, and we feel he's the best in the league for that reason."

It was Minnesota's first home loss of the postseason, but Crawford didn't sound all that impressed with his performance.

"I rate it as a win," he said. "That's the only thing that counts."

Crawford was just a spectator when the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 2010, beating Philadelphia in six games. He took over as Chicago's starting goaltender the following season and posted a career-high 33 wins.

Crawford took his lumps when the Blackhawks lost in the first round of the NHL playoffs in 2011 and 2012. He put those years of difficult lessons to good use in 2013, when he went 16-7 with a .932 save percentage and an

NHL-best 1.84 GAA in Chicago's run to the title.

Now he's back for more. Next up is a rematch with the Kings, who lost to the Blackhawks in the conference finals a year ago, or a showdown with the Anaheim Ducks, the West's top seed. Their Game 7 is Friday.

The conference final begins Sunday afternoon at either Anaheim or Chicago.

Chicago
Blackhawks
goalie
Corey
Crawford

CHRIS SWEDA, CHICAGO
TRIBUNE/MCT



WORLD CUP



TONY AVELAR/AP

Landon Donovan, right, Mix Diskerud, center, and Chris Wondolowski warm up during a U.S. men's soccer training session on Wednesday in Stanford, Calif. The team began a two-week training camp leading up to a May 27 exhibition with Azerbaijan at San Francisco's Candlestick Park.

US begins training camp in California

The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Jurgen Klinsmann cut right to it: The U.S. has some serious catching up to do a month before its World Cup opener.

Klinsmann was eager to get started on a scorching Wednesday afternoon at Stanford Stadium as the Americans began a two-week training camp leading up to a May 27 exhibition with Azerbaijan at San Francisco's Candlestick Park.

While all 30 Americans have yet to arrive in the Bay Area, Klinsmann will have the tough task of cutting his roster to 23 by June 2.

"The reason we take 30 is we're not sure yet," Klinsmann said before his team took the field. "There will be intense training sessions ahead of them in order to show what they have, in every position not only as a center forward, the entire team."

Defender Geoff Cameron and goalkeepers Tim Howard and Brad Guzan are scheduled to arrive Sunday, as Klinsmann gave them a few extra days coming from their Premier League clubs in England.

Clarence Goodson, a defender with the nearby San Jose Earthquakes, led the U.S. team through the Stanford Stadium tunnel and

onto the field for Day 1.

"Whoa hoo hoo!" hollered left back DaMarcus Beasley in the heat.

Forward Chris Wondolowski smiled and said he had consumed plenty of water.

Beasley is trying for his fourth World Cup.

"I still get butterflies," he said.

"I haven't been with the team for a while. To see all the guys' faces, it's good to be back with the team and obviously it's very important. We have a lot of work to do, and a lot of work to be done in these three weeks before the team goes to Brazil."

Klinsmann knows he needs to evaluate everybody in short order — and a versatile, deep defense will be one of those areas even if the group is lacking in World Cup minutes.

Beasley, for one, believes this is the best U.S. squad he has been a part of. The Americans are gearing up for their final three tune-ups before the Group G World Cup opener June 16 against Ghana in Natal.

So what if the odds are against them?

"You should bet on us," Beasley said, chuckling. "You never know what happens. It's one game in a World Cup, whoever's better on that day will win. Simple as that."

Cause for concern?

Much still to be done as World Cup looms

By TALES AZZONI

The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — It's all coming down to the final 30 days.

Brazil had seven years to get ready for the World Cup, but it enters the final month of preparations with a lot yet to be done.

Three stadiums are still under construction, some of the temporary structures needed for matches are delayed and it remains unclear if all cities will have time to organize the mandatory fanfests.

It's already known that not all infrastructure will be completed no matter how much organizers rush before the June 12 opener. The government acknowledges that communications inside stadiums won't be perfect, unfinished airports remain a concern and there are widespread threats of violent protests by Brazilians complaining about the billions of dollars spent to organize the tournament.

Brazilian officials guarantee everything will be fine. FIFA remains concerned.

"Everything will be in place for the World Cup in Brazil to be a success," Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said Tuesday. "The stadiums will be ready, the airports will be ready, we are guaranteeing public safety."

But Joao Augusto Nardes, president of the government's watchdog group, told Brazil's official news service, Agencia Brasil, on Tuesday that some of the work still isn't in place to provide "adequate security to those attending the World Cup."

FIFA is worried mostly about the stadiums where the 64 matches will be played. It wanted all venues completed by the end of last year, but Brazil was not able to get half of them ready in time. Many will not host all the test events that were planned.

Among the three stadiums under construction is the Itaquero, where the opener between Brazil and Croatia will be played. There will be some 14,000 guests among the nearly 70,000 people in attendance, including many heads of state.

Some of the 20,000 temporary seats needed for the opener are still being installed, and the only official test event planned for the Itaquero takes place Sunday, about three weeks before the opener. It won't even happen in front of a full crowd, with only 40,000 fans allowed into the venue.

"For the World Cup it will all be 100 percent ready," said Andres Sanchez, who is in charge of the stadium's construction.

Another unfinished stadium is the Arena da



DENIS FERREIRA NETTO/AP

Work continues at the Arena da Baixada in Curitiba, Brazil. After seven years to get ready for the World Cup, it's all coming down to the final 30 days for Brazil, with a lot yet to be done. The unfinished stadium in Brazil's southern city of Curitiba was nearly excluded from the tournament by FIFA earlier this year.

Baixada in the southern city of Curitiba, which was nearly excluded from the tournament by FIFA this year. The first full test at the venue is scheduled for this week.

"There were some setbacks in some of these stadiums," said Brazil's Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, who has been arduously downplaying the delays. "Everything will be ready."

There is also concern with the temporary structures at the Beira-Rio Stadium in southern Porto Alegre, and the other incomplete venue is the Arena Pantanal in the western city of Cuiaba, which is only expected to host an official test event at the end of the month.



MAURICIO SIMONETTI, PORTAL DA COPA/AP

The Itaquero stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is shown in this aerial photograph taken in March.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Second round

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Miami 4, Brooklyn 1

Miami 107, Brooklyn 96
Miami 94, Brooklyn 82
Brooklyn 104, Miami 90
Miami 102, Brooklyn 96
Wednesday: Miami 96, Brooklyn 94
Indiana 3, Washington 2

Washington 102, Indiana 96

Indiana 86, Washington 82

Indiana 85, Washington 63

Indiana 95, Washington 92

Washington 102, Indiana 79

Thursday: at Washington

x-Sunday: at Indiana

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio 4, Portland 1

San Antonio 116, Portland 92
San Antonio 114, Portland 97
San Antonio 118, Portland 103
Portland 103, San Antonio 92
Wednesday: San Antonio 104, Portland 82

Oklahoma City 3, L.A. Clippers 2

L.A. Clippers 122, Oklahoma City 105

Oklahoma City 112, L.A. Clippers 101

Oklahoma City 118, L.A. Clippers 112

L.A. Clippers 101, Oklahoma City 99

Oklahoma City 105, L.A. Clippers 104

Thursday: at L.A. Clippers

x-Sunday: at Oklahoma City

Wednesday

Spurs 104, Trail Blazers 82

PORTLAND — Battum 3-9 3-9 10, Aldridge 10-21 1-4 21, Lopez 5-7 2-2 12, Lillard 7-18 2-2 17, Matthews 5-10 2-2 14, Robinson 0-3 0-0 2, Barton 2-9 1-2 6, McCollum 0-3 0-0 0, Freeland 0-2 0-0 0, McLeonard 0-0 0-0 0, Claver 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-61 11-17 82.

SAN ANTONIO — K-Leonard 9-15 1-2 22, Duncan 6-13 4-6 16, Splitter 1-1 2-2 4, Parker 0-2 0-0 0, Green 9-13 0-2 22, Diaw 2-5 2-5 10, Bosh 1-2 0-0 2, Belinelli 1-5 2-4 4, Mills 8-17 0-0 18, Joseph 1-3 0-0 2, Baynes 0-0 0-0 0, Bortles 1-1 0-0 2, Ayres 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-89 11-16 104.

Portland 19 25 19 — 82

San Antonio 19 32 26 — 104

Three-Point Goals—Portland 4, 5-19

(Matthews 2-4, Lillard 1-4, Barton 1-4, Battum 1-6, McCollum 0-1), San Antonio 9-21

(Green 4-6, K-Leonard 3-4, Mills 2-5, Parker 0-1, Belinelli 0-1, Diaw 0-2, Ginobili 0-2), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland

53 (Battum 12), San Antonio 53 (Green 9), Assists—Portland 18 (Lillard 10), San Antonio 24 (Splitter 7). Total Fouls—Portland

16, San Antonio 19. A.—18:51 (18:77).

Heat 96, Nets 94

BROOKLYN — Johnson 15-23 1-1 34, Pierce 8-18 1-2 19, Garnett 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 7-16 0-0 17, Livingston 2-6 4-8 8, Anderson 3-13 0-0 2, Blatche 0-0 0-0 0, Teletovich 1-3 4-4 6, Kirilenko 1-2 2-4 4, Thornton 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 37-75 12-54 94.

MIAMI — James 14-15 1-17 29, Battier 0-0 0-0 0, Bosh 6-11 0-0 16, Chalmers 6-5 2-2 2, Wade 10-18 8-8 28, Allen 4-10 4-4 13, Anderson 9-11 0-0 0, Jones 1-2 0-0 2, Cole 0-3 0-0 0, Lewis 2-3 0-0 5. Totals 29-67 15-54 96.

Brooklyn 22 27 26 — 94

Miami 22 19 24 — 96

Three-Point Goals—Portland 5-22

(Johnson 3-6, Williams 3-7, Pierce 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Thornton 1-2, Teletovich 0-2), Miami 9-29 (Bosh 4-6, James 2-5, Lewis 1-2, Jones 1-2, Allen 1-7, Cole 0-0, Chalmers 0-5), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—

Brooklyn 47 (Garnett 8), Miami 37 (James 9), Assists—Brooklyn 14 (Williams 4), Miami 18 (Chalmers 7). Total Fouls—Brooklyn

21, Miami 16. A.—19:15 (19:00).

Brooklyn 22 27 26 — 94

Miami 22 19 24 — 96

Three-Point Goals—Portland 5-22

(Johnson 3-6, Williams 3-7, Pierce 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Thornton 1-2, Teletovich 0-2), Miami 9-29 (Bosh 4-6, James 2-5, Lewis 1-2, Jones 1-2, Allen 1-7, Cole 0-0, Chalmers 0-5), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—

Brooklyn 47 (Garnett 8), Miami 37 (James 9), Assists—Brooklyn 14 (Williams 4), Miami 18 (Chalmers 7). Total Fouls—Brooklyn

21, Miami 16. A.—19:15 (19:00).

Brooklyn 22 27 26 — 94

Miami 22 19 24 — 96

Three-Point Goals—Portland 5-22

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SPORTS



Heat, Spurs advance to conference finals

Page 63

The one to watch

Post positions



Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Odds
1 Dynamic Impact	Mena	Casse	12-1
2 General a Rod	Castellano	Maker	15-1
3 California Chrome	Espinosa	Sherman	3-5
4 Ring Weekend	Garcia	Motion	20-1
5 Bayern	Napravnik	Baffert	10-1
6 Ria Antonia	Borel	Amoss	30-1
7 Kid Cruz	Pimentel	Rice	20-1
8 Social Indulson	Contreras	Azpuru	5-1
9 Pablo Del Monte	Sanchez	Ward	20-1
10 Ride On Curlin	Rosario	Gowan	10-1

SOURCE: Preakness.com

MCT

California Chrome's quest for 1st Triple Crown since 1978 set to continue from favorable Preakness post

BY CHILDS WALKER
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Steve Coburn hasn't stopped dreaming.

Throughout the week leading up to the Kentucky Derby, California Chrome's co-owner predicted victory to anyone who'd listen, saying he felt it from his gut and his heart.

Coburn, wearing his trademark cowboy hat, sang the same confident tune Wednesday after his champion drew the No. 3 post position for Saturday's Preakness Stakes. His strong belief was echoed in the morning line set by Pimlico Race Course handicapper Keith Feustle, which has California Chrome as a massive 3-5 favorite.

"I'm great with No. 3," Coburn said after the evening draw, held on the infield at Pimlico. "If he holds his position, I think we got this pretty well sewed up here. It is a dream coming true. I knew this horse would win the Kentucky Derby. And I've got a strong feeling

'I knew this horse would win the Kentucky Derby. And I've got a strong feeling he's going to win the Preakness. I've got something within me that I feel, and I can't explain it.'

Steve Coburn
California Chrome's co-owner

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California Chrome's charmed existence continued with a draw that will put him near the middle of a 10-horse field as he continues his quest to become the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978.

An unlucky draw can be an impediment to the strongest of favorites, as Orb learned last year when he went off as a 3-5 choice from the No. 1 post but couldn't fight his way off the rail in time to catch Oxbow.

An awed gasp swept through the crowd at the draw when California Chrome was announced as such a massive favorite.

SEE PREAKNESS ON PAGE 57

California Chrome, with Victor Espinosa up, wins the Kentucky Derby on May 3 in Louisville, Ky. California Chrome was installed as a 3-5 favorite for Saturday's Preakness Stakes in Baltimore.

CHARLES BERTRAM, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT

